- **ENTERTAINMENT / A24**

Dollywood: After best director, best film win in Brussels, Cesar awaits birth of 3rd baby

- **NEWS / A2**

Senate probers ask US help to find ex-Agri Usec Bolante

- **BUSINESS / B1**

Stocks surge to highest level in 8 months as rise in credit rating expected

- **WORLD / A8**

World Bank seeks $1-B bird flu fund; China outbreak spreads

Sandigan: Hold 50th Ateneo HS '55 reunion in Erap estate

REUNION NA, OUTING PA!!!

By Nelson F. Flores

INSTEAD OF THE MERALco Theater on Ortigas Avenue in Pasig City, why not hold the golden jubilee celebration of the Ateneo High School Class

SANDIGAN/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Video triggers probe on cops' 'overkill' of carnap suspects

By Luige A. del Puerto

BARELY FOUR DAYS AFTER BEING HEAVILY criticized for tagging an innocent man in Zamboanga Sibugay as an Abu Sayyaf leader, the police braced yesterday for more tumultuous days as a video of an alleged rubout in Pasig City showed officers firing at suspects

VIDEO/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, November 10, 2005 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 335 P18 website: www.inq7.net

6 US Marines want out

Rape suspects asked for transfer to Okinawa, says Subic official

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—AS the mother of the Filipino rape victim yesterday tearfully pleaded for justice for her daughter, a Philippine official said that the six US Marines who had allegedly violated her had asked to be transferred to their Okinawa home base.

In a voice quivering with anger, the 45-year-old mother urged the INQUIRER in a telephone interview to send this message to President Macapagal-Arroyo: "Please help my daughter get justice."

The senior official of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority told the INQUIRER on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue that the Americans had made "unofficial requests" for the transfer to their 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit of the III Marine Expeditionary Force based in Okinawa.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Zosimo Paredes, who is also executive director of the Presidential Commission on the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, said the VFA did not prevent the accused in the rape case to leave the country.

He said the VFA has "no qualification" as to where exactly an accused can be held "so long as they don't leave US custody."

"There's really nothing there that says 'US custody in the Philippines'," Paredes said in an interview with the INQUIRER. "Their only obligation is to make them available during judicial proceedings."

Paredes also conceded that "we cannot compel" the US to keep the accused on Philippine soil so long as it complies with court orders for them to be presented on specific dates.

Capt. Burrel Parmer, public information chief of the US Marine contingent that joined the recently concluded military exercises in the Philippines, said he was unaware of the reported request.

"The US Embassy still has custody of them and assured that it would make them available," Parmer said.

"I want justice for her," the moth-

6 US MARINES/ A6

2004 poll 'dirtiest' in Lanao, says 'secret' witness

By Norman Bordadora

A PROVINCIAL CHAIR OF THE National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) yesterday said thousands of votes were shaved from those of President Macapagal-Arroyo's rival candidates and added to pad her own in Lanao del Sur in 2004.

Speaking on Day 2 of the Citizens Congress for Truth and Accountability (CCTA), Abdullah Dalidig said that on top of the "second-generation" fraud exposed by documents expert Segundo Tabayoyong, Ms Arroyo's camp also engaged in *"dagdag-bawas"* in his province.

"People in Lanao del Sur know electoral fraud ... This is the dirtiest election in Lanao del Sur," said Dalidig, the unnamed witness that CCTA lawyer-presenter Romeo Capulong spoke about on Tuesday.

Lanao del Sur is one of the provinces referred to in the "Hello, Garci" tape as having discrepant election returns (ERs) and certificates of canvass (CoCs).

Dalidig cited the case of Poona Bayabao, wherein the municipal CoC showed Ms Arroyo with 4,700 votes and the other presidential candidates with none.

He said Precinct 25-A in the same municipality showed Ms Arroyo with 35 votes; the late actor

2004 POLL/ A17

RUBEN NEPALES

THE STATELY Isaac Stern Auditorium of Carnegie Hall in New York City provides a venue for Lea Salonga to showcase an emerging passionate persona, an earthiness, a musical maturity and a stunning versatility as an artist who sings pop, jazz, the classic standards and, of course, Broadway.

Standing ovations for Lea at Carnegie Hall

By Ruben V. Nepales
PDI correspondent, Los Angeles

NEW YORK—AT THE END OF THE DEBUT concert of Lea Salonga at Carnegie Hall, the audience rose to its feet and gave the Philippines' pride an ovation.

From Los Angeles, we flew in and out of New York just to watch Lea, and boy, was the trip worth it!

We are still recovering from the heady experience of not only having shared a Lea Salonga milestone but also from having seen the Philippines' national musical treasure give an artistically mature, terrific performance.

Give credit to her experience that only years can give, marriage and her impending motherhood. For there was a forcefulness, grittiness and earthiness in the Lea Salonga that we saw and heard.

We've heard many of the songs (exquisitely arranged by her brother Gerard who was absent due to a commitment in Manila) from CD recordings of her live Manila concerts on Sony BMG Records but at Carnegie she sang them with more passion.

After an introduction and remarks by Victor Lirio and Liz Casasola, for whose Diverse City Theater Company the benefit concert was held, Lea entered the stage, and immediately, she was visibly touched and overwhelmed by the sight of Carnegie's majestic

STANDING/ A18

Experts: 12% VAT to unleash bull run, P52:$1

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

RAISING THE VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT) rate from 10 percent to 12 percent by January next year will ignite a three-month rally of the peso and the stocks, according to market experts.

"Raising the VAT to 12 percent will solidify investors' view that this government is committed to putting its fiscal house in order and erase lingering doubts about the President's political resolve," said Jose Arnulfo "Wick" Veloso, treasurer of HSBC Philippines.

The British banking giant is the world's fifth largest in terms of assets.

"It will unleash a bull run across the board for at least three months," he said.

In the three-month burst of investor exuberance, Veloso expects the peso to hit the 52 to the dollar mark and interest rates on T-bills to go down by as much as one percentage point, or equivalent to P25 billion.

The VAT law, the centerpiece of President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic reform program, contains a provision empowering the President to raise the tax rate to 12 percent by Jan. 1 should the VAT collection as a percentage of the previous year's gross domestic product (GDP) exceed 2.8 percent or the national government deficit as a percentage of GDP exceed 1.5 percent.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves had said that based on cur-

EXPERTS/ A18

Fate of Samar in GMA hands, says ecology group

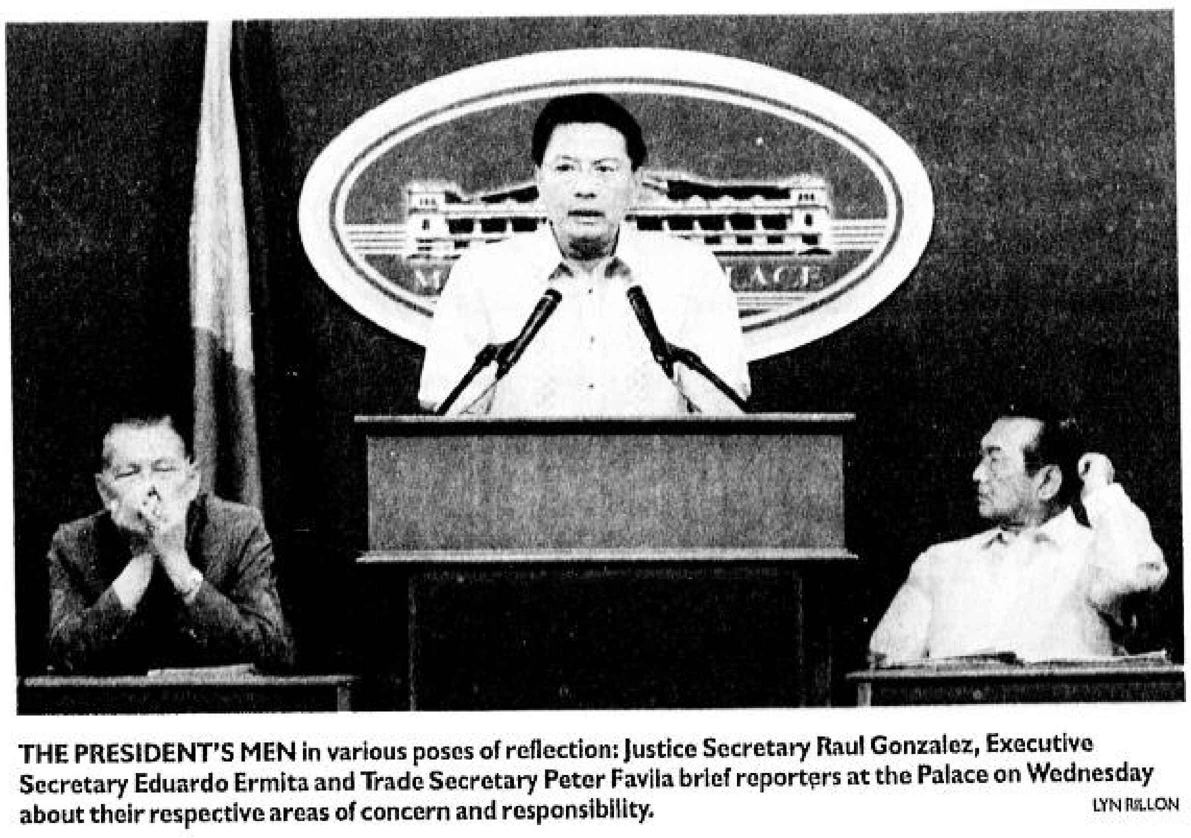
By Blanche S. Rivera

THE FATE OF SAMAR ISLAND, one of the world's 200 ecologically richest regions, rests in the hands of President Macapagal-Arroyo, according to the Foundation for the Philippine Environment.

FPE manager Sylvia Mesina said the President's reversal of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources order allowing Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's firm to cut trees inside the Samar Island Nature Park would be the easiest way to stop logging in a protected area.

Mesina also said Ms Arroyo should invoke the provisions of her own proclamation in 2003 declaring 333,000 hectares of forest on the island a nature park: "If she respects the proclamation she made, she should tell [Environment Secretary

FATE/ A6



THE PRESIDENT'S MEN in various poses of reflection: Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Trade Secretary Peter Favila brief reporters at the Palace on Wednesday about their respective areas of concern and responsibility.

LYN RILLON

Malacañang taps McCann-Erickson for bird flu drive

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG IS TAPPING ONE OF THE BIGGEST multinational ad agencies to make its information drive on the bird flu pandemic more credible.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita justified the move of Government Mass Media Group head Cerge Remonde to take in McCann-Erickson in "conceptualizing, designing, and managing a multi-media campaign on the bird flu."

Ermita did not have any idea how much McCann-Erickson would be paid for the deal or whether a bid was conducted, just like in other public contracts. But in a text message, Remonde claimed that McCann-Erickson, one of the world's most expensive advertising agencies, had offered its services for free.

In a briefing, Ermita said: "Having been in gov-

MALACANANG/ A17

Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: At 2 p.m. yesterday, tropical storm ONDOY was estimated at 600 km east of Legaspi City with maximum sustained winds of 65 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 80 kph. It is forecast to move west at 19 kph. Intertropical Convergence Zone affects Mindanao and Palawan.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/11/10/05 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Probers seek US help in finding ex-DA usec

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE has sought the help of the United States in finding a former agriculture official believed to be responsible for the alleged irregular use of P728 million in fertilizer funds in the 2004 election campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., the committee chair, has written the US Embassy charge d'affaires, Paul Jones, requesting assistance in locating Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, the ex-agriculture undersecretary who is said to be in the US.

Magsaysay has also sent a similar request to Rotary International president Carl Wilhelm Stenhammar, according to Judith Sto. Domingo, Magsaysay's media relations officer.

Bolante, a close friend of the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, is said to be the fourth highest Rotary International official. The former official was presiding over a Rotary Club affair at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel last month when he eluded the subpoena servers sent by the Senate committee.

A few hours before the Senate committee hearing into the fertilizer fund investigation opened on Oct. 26, Bolante left the country for Los Angeles.

Magsaysay said Bolante could be bodily brought to the Senate hearing on the strength of the subpoena.

The Senate agriculture committee investigation is set for next Thursday as the Senate has decided to constitute itself into a committee of the whole for the budget deliberations from Monday to Wednesday.

BOLANTE

Citing reports from the Department of Agrarian Reform, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the committee should investigate reports that $570 million of the agrarian reform funds had been diverted to the fertilizer fund.

He said this amount did not include the P728 million allegedly funneled to House legislators and local officials, ostensibly to fund fertilizer purchases for farmers.

Magsaysay has confirmed that part of the recovered Marcos assets intended for agrarian reform was among the sources of money used for the fertilizer fund.

He said about P500 million from the National Food Authority was also tapped for the fund.

"The fertilizer fund could have reached more than P1 billion but we don't want to preempt the testimony of our resource persons," he said.

Magsaysay said officials of the Presidential Commission on Good Government would be asked to explain the allegedly irregular use of the recovered Marcos assets. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

American lawmakers come to aid of kids detained in RP jails

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – Seven American legislators have endorsed to President Macapagal-Arroyo a request to convert an abandoned livelihood center in Zambales into a home for more than 3,000 children detained with adults in various Philippine jails.

Senators Sam Brownback and Jim de Mint, and Representatives Trent Franks, Joseph Pitts, Todd Akin, Christopher Smith and Frank Wolf made the appeal on behalf of Preda, a children's welfare foundation based in Olongapo City.

In their letter, dated Nov. 2 and coursed through Ambassador Albert del Rosario in Washington D.C., the American legislators said they were "deeply concerned" that 3,700 Filipino children were held in prisons under "conditions detrimental to their health and well-being." They supported Preda's request after a United States congressional subcommittee heard the testimony of Lord David Alton of the British House of Lords in September and after the Jubilee Campaign, a United Kingdom-based human rights group, released its report "Kids Behind Bars."

The land on which the livelihood center stands on, the legislators said, was originally bought by the Philippine government using relief funds for livelihood and humanitarian assistance after the eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo. "We request that [Zambales] Gov. Vicente Magsaysay and the provincial board consider permitting this property to be used by Preda Foundation for the care and rehabilitation of children released from jails," they said.

Fr. Shay Cullen, Preda executive director, said the proposed facilities for juvenile offenders are a bungalow and two warehouses in a five-hectare land. The area is within a 22-hectare property in Barangay San Nicolas, Castillejos town.

Magsaysay, the American lawmakers said, could "take the lead in allowing this otherwise unused property to be dedicated to these children, therefore saving them from further abuse in prisons."

They also vouched for Preda, saying it is accredited to take custody of the children through court orders.

Preda, they said, could provide education and recovery for the children while their cases are being heard in courts.

Magsaysay on Wednesday said the provincial government was "willing to allow the Preda use of some portions of the property."

"We cannot give the whole property because parts of it are being used by the Department of Public Works and Highways' provincial office," he said.

The American legislators sent Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. a copy of the letter. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

RP gets $20-M US grant for anticorruption drive

THE UNITED STATES HAS GIVEN the Philippines a grant of $20 million (P1.1 billion) to fund programs to address corruption and raise the level of transparency in public service.

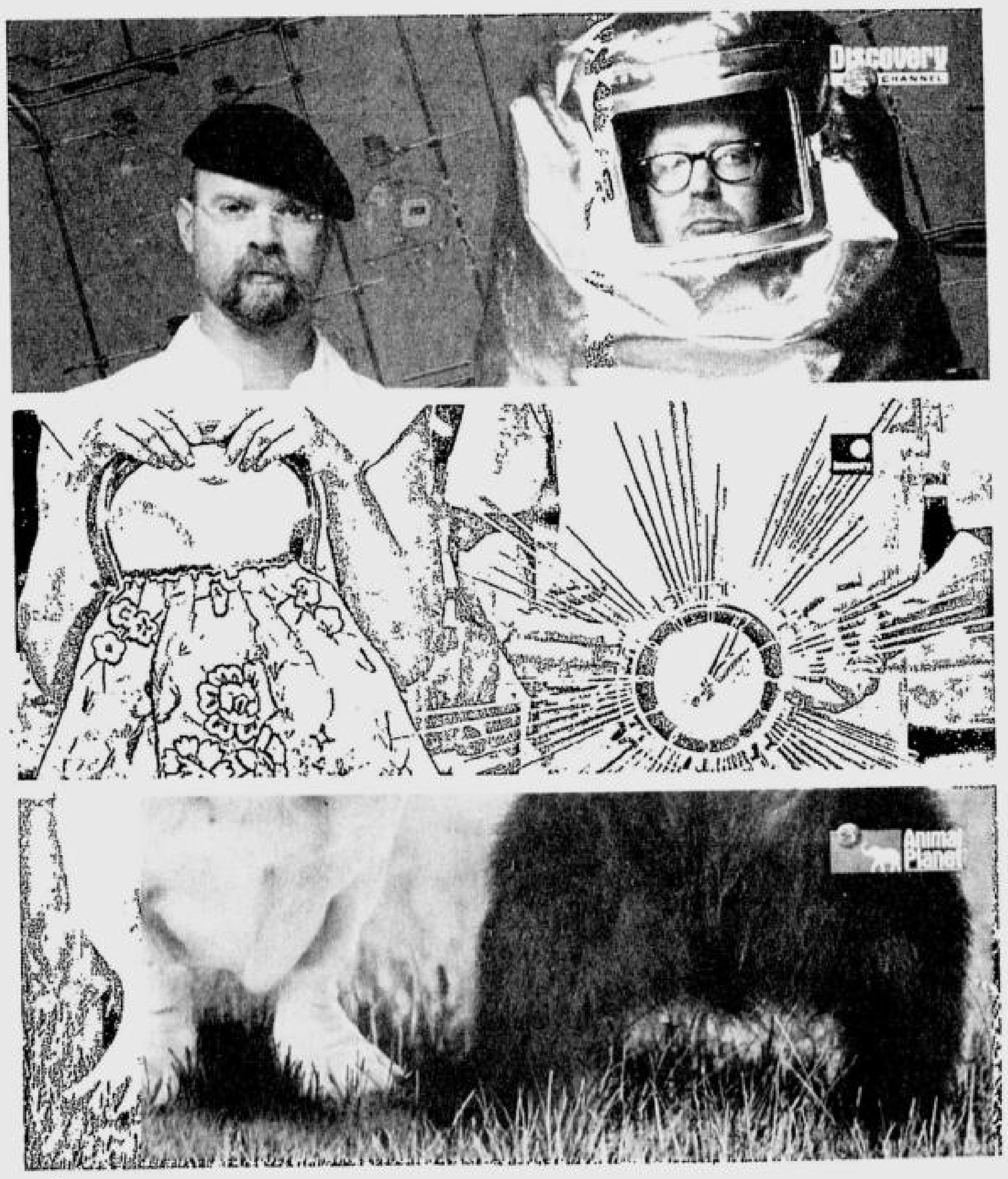
The grant will be administered by Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC), a US state firm that provides assistance to promote economic growth in poor countries, said Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan.

Bonoan said the grant would help strengthen the finance department's Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS) that conducts lifestyle checks on officials and employees of agencies, such as the Customs and internal revenue bureaus.

Matthew Lussenhop, the US Embassy spokesperson, said the grant was intended to help the Philippines qualify for the Millennium Challenge Account, a major US initiative to help selected countries. The MCA has a $1.5 billion funding for 2005.

The Philippines, however, failed to make the list of qualified countries because of its problems with corruption.

But it qualified under the threshold program, making it eligible to seek US grants to help it improve on its areas of weaknesses to finally qualify for the MCA. *Michelle V. Remo*



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4547 Series of 2005

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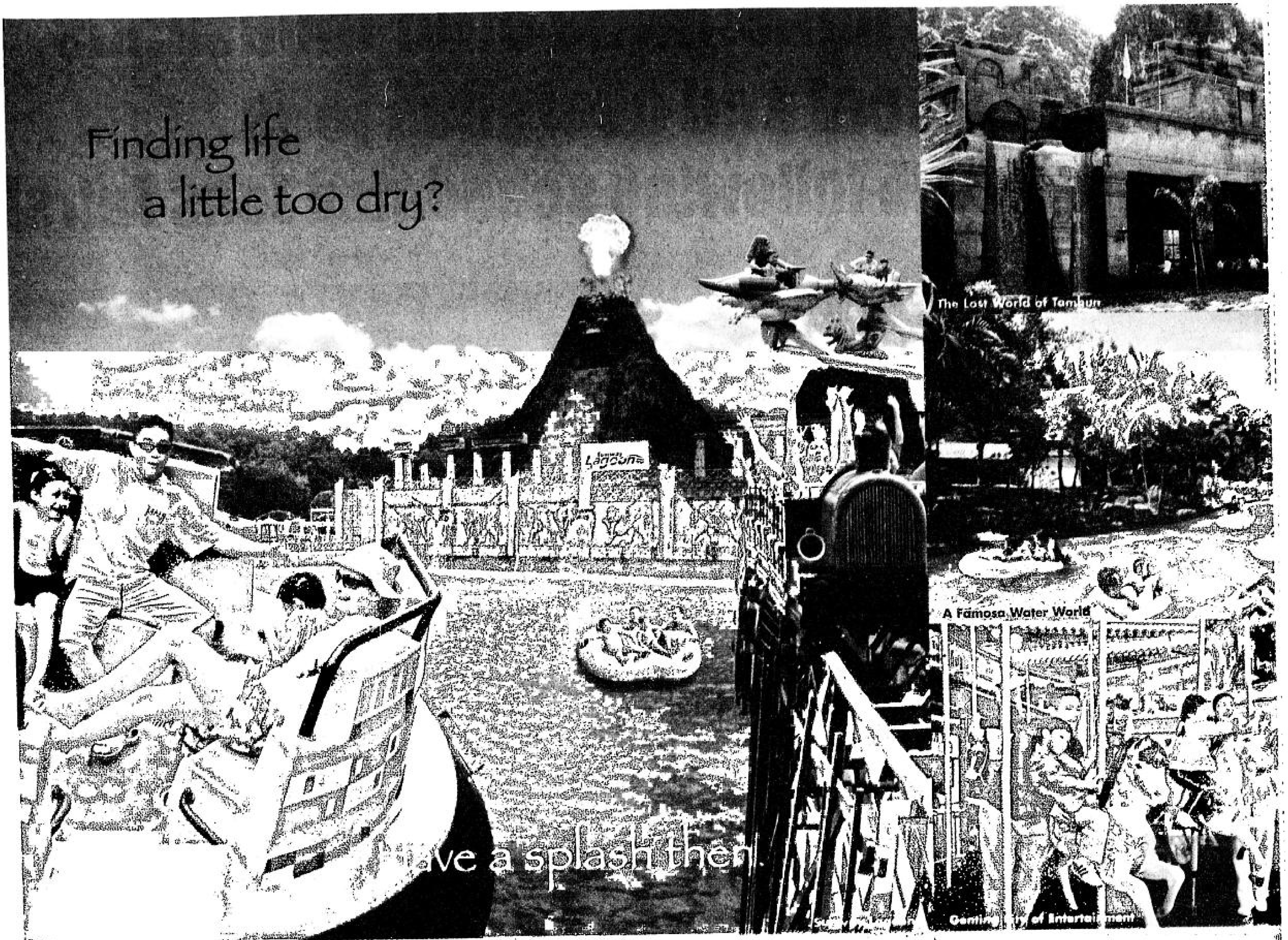
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3257 Series of 2005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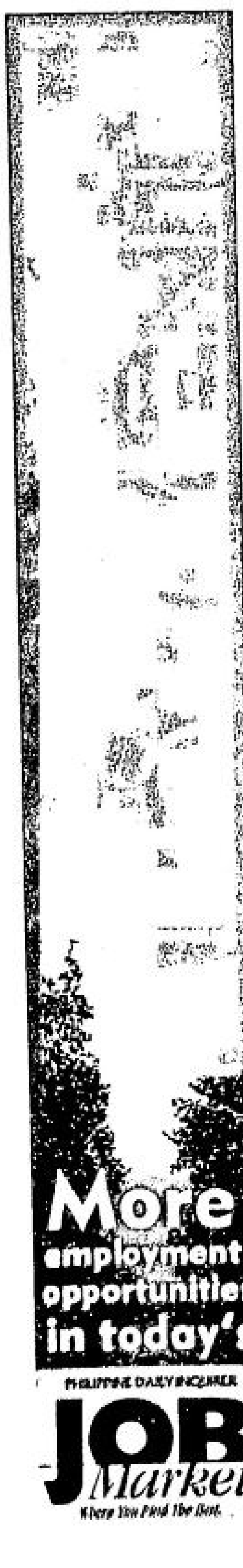
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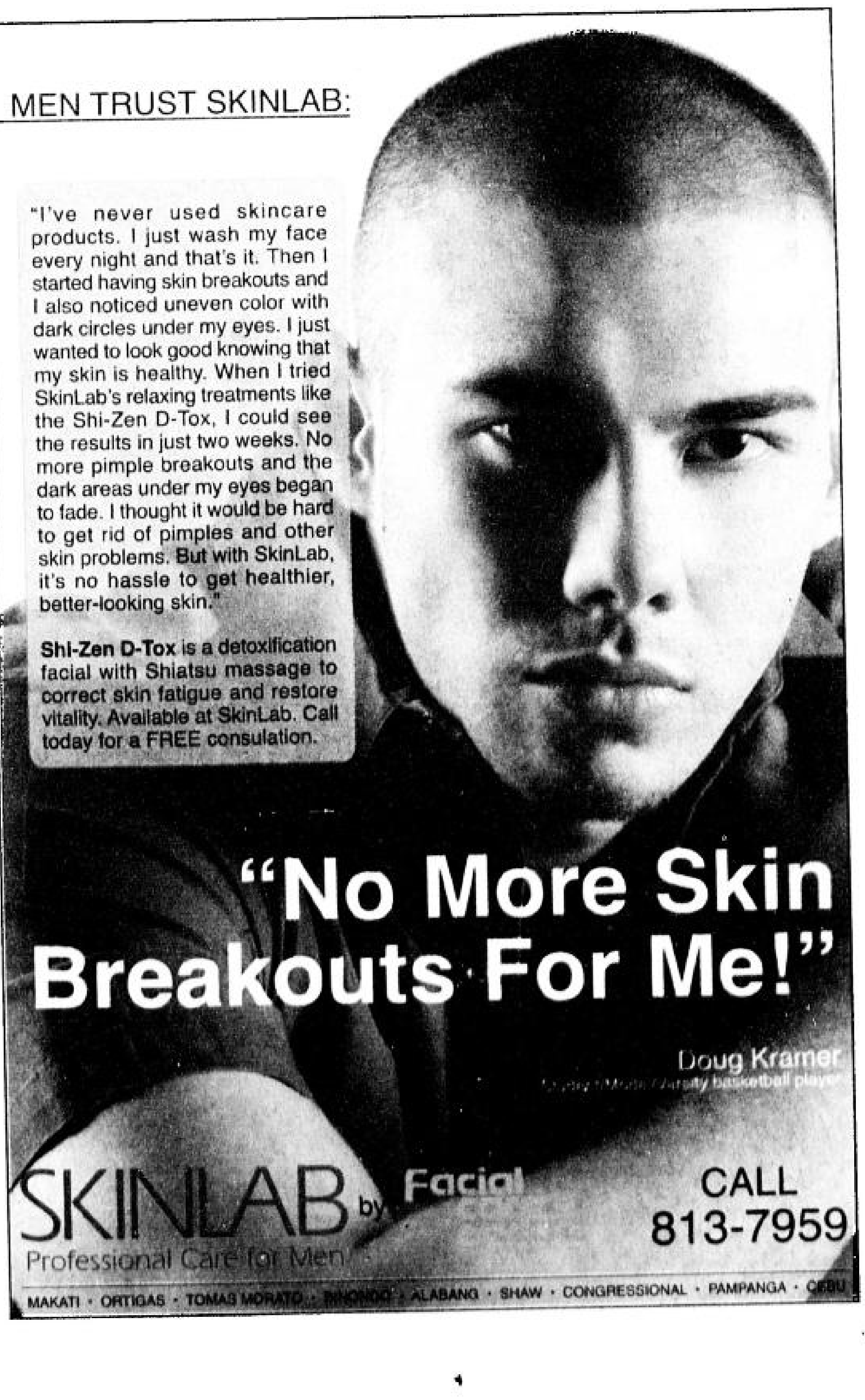
So while Patio Victoria helps you plan your dream wedding, Marie France and Facial Care Centre will help you stand out on your most special day. For more information about their treatments call **894-BODY** for Marie France and **892-SKIN** for Facial Care Centre. Hurry and get started on your way to looking fabulous and feeling great today.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NCR	November 10-11	Thursday-Friday	PICC, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Overseas	DOLE
NCR	November 11	Friday	Lama covered court, Caloocan City	Local	PAGCOR
ROVII	November 12	Saturday	Avellana Sports Complex, Cebu City	Local/Overseas	ABS-CBN
NCR	November 12-15	Saturday-Tuesday	Araneta Coliseum, Quezon City	Local	PESO
ROXII	November 13-14	Sunday-Monday	Pres. Quirino Mun. Hall Grnd., Sultan Kudarat	Overseas	PESO
ROXII	November 15	Tuesday	Municipal Hall Tulunan, North Cotobato	Overseas	PESO
RO-IV-B	November 16-17	Wednesday-Thursday	Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro	Local/Overseas	DOLE/PESO
NCR	November 17-18	Thursday-Friday	Pasay City Hall	Local	PESO
ROXII	November 18-19	Friday-Saturday	Isulan Gymnasium Sultan Kudarat Provincial Govt.	Local/Overseas	PESO
ROIV-A	November 21	Monday	Laguna State Polytechnic College, San Pablo City, Laguna	Local/Overseas	DOLE/PESO
ROVI	November 22	Tuesday	University of Iloilo	Local/Overseas	Univ of Iloilo/DOLE
NCR	November 24	Thursday	Paranaque National High School	Local	PAGCOR/PESO
ROXI	November 24	Thursday	Kapalong, Davao del Norte	Locla/Overseas	PESO
ROX	November 24	Thursday	Cagayan De Oro School of Arts and Trades	Local/Overseas	School
ROVII	November 25	Saturday	Lapu-Lapu City Sports Complex	Local/Overseas	PESO
ROVII	November 25	Sunday	Social Hall, Provincial Capitol, Cebu City	Local	PESO
ROXII	November 27-28	Monday-Tuesday	Saranggani Provincial Govt.	Local/Overseas	PESO
CAR	November	Date to be announced	Ifugao Provincial Gym	Local/Overseas	PESO
ROIV-A	December 3	Saturday	Lions Club, San Pablo City	Local	PESO
NCR	December 7	Wednesday	Peso Office, Paranaque City Hall	Local	PESO
ROVIII	December 7	Wednesday	Function Hall, Mayorga, Leyte	Local/Overseas	PESO
ROIV-B	December 7	Wednesday	Puerto Princesa Municipal Gym	Loval/Overseas	DOLE/PESO
NCR	December 8	Thursday	Venue to be announced	Local/Overseas	DOLE
CAR	December 8	Thursday	Tabu Municipal Hall, Benquet	Local/Overseas	PESO
CARAGA	December 8	Thursday	DOLE Regional Office, Butuan City	Overseas	PESO
ROIX	December 8	Thursday	DOLE Regional Office, Zamboanga City	Local/Overseas	DOLE/PESO
ROX	December 8	Thursday	SM Cagayan De Oro City	Local/Overseas	PESO
ROXI	December 8	Thursday	St. Mary's College, Tagum, Davao City	Local/Overseas	School/DOLE
ROI	December 8-9	Thursday-Friday	DOLE Regional Office, San Fernando, La Union	Local/Overseas	DOLE
NCR	December 9	Friday	Quezon City Hall Covered Walk	Local	PESO
ROVII	December 9	Friday	Negros Oriental Sports Complex, Bayanan City	Local/Overseas	PESO
CAR	December 12	Monday	DOLE Regional Office, Baguio City	Local (Call Center)	DOLE
NCR	December 14	Wednesday	Paranaque City Hall	Local	PESO
CAR	December 16	Friday	Venue to be announced	Local/Overseas	DOLE
ROXI	December 27	Tuesday	NCCC Mall, Davao City	Local	DOLE
ROVI	December	Date to be announced	Provincial Govt., Capiz	Local/Overseas	PESO

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RP children confirm abuses for UN report

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—WHAT'S THE WORST ABOUT the treatment of Filipino children?

A Philippine report that will contribute to a world children study by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) confirmed the following:

- Illegal drug syndicates now prefer to hire children as drug runners because of their loyalty to their employers and elusiveness to government law enforcers.
- Filipino child laborers now endure amounts of stress that is equivalent to what adults suffer at work.
- Upgrades in media technology are actually harmful to children, whose sole venue for "socialization" had switched from the nanny (*yaya*) to the television.
- More children are left unattended or in the care of a dysfunctional family set up because more mothers leave for work in the cities or abroad.
- Children are finally developing their own biases, which perpetuate conflicts, when surveyed Christian children portrayed their Muslim counterparts as rude and violent, and Muslim children described their Christian playmates as "land grabbers."

Retelling experiences

Fifty-one delegates, aged 11-17 years old, confirmed on Sunday these details of the Philippine report that relied on the retelling of children's experiences from 1990 to 2005.

In an executive summary of the three-day consultation led by Unicef, the delegates said society's harsh treatment of children "cripple [their] pursuit of contentment, and blinds [them] to the light at the end of the tunnel."

Delegates, who were asked to explain possible solutions to the abuses, offered concrete suggestions.

"We hope people who beat up street children who make mistakes should be punished," a group of delegates said in Filipino.

Another group asked television networks to stop airing images of beheadings.

Lina Laygo, executive director of the Council for the Welfare of Children, said the report concluded that 43 percent of the country's 80 million people (roughly 38 million Filipino youth) are vulnerable to many cases of abuse that range from a verbal reprimand to child pornography.

Poverty issue

But the report to Unicef takes care not to blame poverty for the cases of child abuse.

"Most instances or forms of violence against Filipino children are attributed to poverty, but [this attribution] without examining its different dimensions other than inadequate income perpetuates the bias against the poor," it said.

"Poverty in the Philippines is characterized by a chronic or cyclical condition of deprivation of basic services that include basic education, durable housing and clothing," the report said.

It cited government claims that only more than 5.13 million Filipinos are considered poor.

But poverty has been at the root of some of the problems. In a 1993 government study, the country discovered that 16 percent of surveyed households have children aged below 12 "who were left unattended or with no adult supervision."

The report said "limited economic opportunities" had changed the work landscape, creating solo parenting.

The Philippine government only allocated 0.078 percent of its budget from 1996 to 2000 for child welfare (approximately P2.09 billion for five years), according to the report, citing a study on resource allocation trends.

The report cited weaknesses in child protection laws and suggested drafting "specific legislation" that would criminalize child pornography and pedophilia.

It also urged the creation of a law that institutionalizes a juvenile justice system to promote rehabilitation.

In their executive report, the children-delegates asked for a policy that makes it mandatory for government to consult children about laws affecting them.

Haribon forum tackles bird flu

FEARS OF A PANDEMIC ARE ESCALATING with the spread of the so-called H5N1 bird flu strain from Southeast Asia to Europe.

But what exactly is bird flu? Does it originate from poultry or wild birds? Is there a cause for concern? Are we prepared to deal with it? What are the steps the government is undertaking to prevent it from affecting us?

These are some issues for discussion in the November forum of Haribon Foundation, which will be held today starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Meralco Mini-Theater in the Ortigas Center. The resource panel includes bird experts and officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, the Department of Health, and the Department of Agriculture.

The forum is free and open to the public.

For inquiries, call Lui Hugo at 433-3476 local 18 or 920-7430, e-mail advocacy@haribon.org.ph, or visit www.haribon.org.ph.

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SUCAT

6 US Marines asked for transfer to home base

From page A1

er said in the first family statement on the Nov. 1 incident at the sprawling Subic Bay Freeport—the largest US naval base outside the continental United States until it was shut down in 1992.

"Binaboy nila ang pagkatao ng anak ko (They destroyed my daughter's reputation)," she said.

She asked the INQUIRER to stress that her 22-year-old daughter is a decent woman. "She is not a prostitute. They should not judge her character," she said.

The mother, together with a son, also appeared in an interview with GMA television news, weeping and appealing that there should be no whitewash on the case and that Americans be jailed.

Many people, she said, were trying to extend help to her daughter but she said she was wary of some who might want to use her for their political interests.

"Ayaw kong pagpiyestahan nila ang anak ko (I don't want this issue to turn into a circus)," she said.

"Don't pity my daughter. Our fellow Filipinos should instead be angry at the Americans who abused her. This is not solely my daughter's battle. It must be our people's fight because those soldiers abused a Filipina."

Overnight, she said the incident had changed her family and thrown her other four children into confusion and feelings of shame.

As the mother tried to help her daughter overcome the trauma, she was also helping her other children cope with the situation.

"They are either embarrassed [about] what happened or couldn't accept it. I told them they shouldn't feel shame for their sister because she herself did not like what happened to her. Often, I tell them that what their sister needs now is understanding and support," she said.

The mother said her daughter had a full life ahead of her until she was abused.

The victim's father, a former Navy officer—not an Army soldier as identified in earlier reports—and her mother, a government employee, gave her a college education.

The daughter has been receiving counseling from crisis management specialists of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. She had come to Subic to accompany a stepsister to meet her boyfriend. In the course of bar-hopping, she was taken to a van, where she was allegedly raped, according to accounts by freeport officials.

The incident, the mother said, has disrupted their lives and their food business in Zamboanga City but this is not important anymore.

"She is our priority now, nothing else," the mother said.

In Manila, Sen. Richard Gordon released a letter from the mother requesting for assistance. He said he also received a phone call from her.

"For my daughter, the ordeal of living with fear, depression and humiliation is indeed very painful and even much more agonizing for a mother like me who sees her young daughter in moments of torment and despair," the mother said in her Nov. 4 letter.

"We are very much aware of the consequences that we have to face like the series of investigations, examinations and scrutiny from all concerned agencies and concerned organizations, particularly the media, and all other vital procedures that we need to undergo," she said.

"Inasmuch as we would want to protect my daughter and our family from further dilemma, we deem it appropriate to seek professional help in order for us to deal with or cope with our situation."

Gordon said the mother made the same request when she called him by phone from Subic last Monday, a day before the Olongapo City prosecutor's office issued the subpoenas on the servicemen for the preliminary investigation on Nov. 23 and 29.

Victim wants to go home

"They asked for help and they need lawyers. Basically they'd like to pursue the case," Gordon, a member of the legislative oversight committee on the VFA said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Gordon tapped Manuel Quijano, a former member of the Accra law office and former deputy administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, to serve as the family's private lawyer pro bono.

A criminal complaint signed by the victim, who requested that she not be identified, said she was raped on the night of Nov. 1 by the Americans from the aircraft carrier USS Essex. The Americans were on the last night of a furlough after participating in the RP counterterrorism exercises which ended last week.

"This incident does not speak for the VFA, for the American people. It's just them. Let's just prosecute them to the hilt," said Gordon.

Shabby treatment

City Prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni said the victim had requested to return to Zamboanga City, where she lived. He could not say if her return to Zamboanga was permanent and would only come to Olongapo City for the preliminary investigation on Nov. 23 and 29.

Also yesterday, the INQUIRER learned that the victim had complained that a doctor at the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital in Olongapo City had treated her shabbily. The victim narrated to Rep. Milagros Magsaysay of Zambales that the doctor had asked the rape victim why she was still at the hospital the morning after the incident.

The victim replied that she was confused and didn't know. "Maybe you had it coming," the doctor reportedly told her.

US Chargé d'Affaires Paul Jones met with Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat. Jones reiterated that the embassy would cooperate in the investigation of the incident.

In Jolo, US soldiers on a humanitarian mission ferried 13,000 pounds of educational materials and 2,000 pounds of medical supplies. Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong said the Subic incident was an "isolated case." ***With reports from Volt Contreras, TJ Burgonio, Philip C. Tubeza, Christine O. Avendaño and Jerome Aning; Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and, Charlie C. Señase and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Fate of Samar in GMA hands, says ecology group

From page A1

Michael] Defensor not to [allow logging there] because she has already proclaimed it a protected area."

The FPE, a member of the Task Force Sierra Madre, was among the groups that yesterday held a rally outside the DENR central office in Quezon City to protest logging in Samar.

Defensor signed on Aug. 16 an order allowing Enrile's San Jose Timber Corp. to log in a 95,770-hectare area that falls within the strict protection zone of the nature park. He also extended the SJTC timber license agreement by another 16 years, or until 2021.

"It's political accommodation. Even if it's legal, you should also check the situation in Samar," Mesina said, adding:

"I am for sustainable logging, but the way Enrile does logging [is] not sustainable ... Loggers want only the timber for economic benefits; they don't care about the forest."

'Death for the farmers'

In Tacloban City, Lito Gacusana, secretary general of the Samahan han Gudti nga Paraguma han Sinirangan Bisayas (Sagupa), also appealed to the President and Defensor to reconsider the order allowing SJTC to resume operations.

Gacusana said any logging activity on Samar island—which is composed of the provinces of Samar, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar—would not help uplift the farmers' living conditions and would result in their possible dislocation.

He said the resumption of SJTC operations would affect both the upland and lowland peasant communities that depend on forest resources for survival.

"Our fertile plains are irrigated by the waters provided by our forests," he said. "Taking it all away will mean death for the farmers."

Gacusana said Sagupa was planning to join the caravan to be led by environment groups in Samar on Dec. 1 to express opposition to the lifting of the logging moratorium on the island.

Various nongovernment and people's organizations, members of the academe and the Church, and anti-mining and logging advocates are also expected to join the caravan.

But Ramil Macalalad, chief of the DENR legal services division in Eastern Visayas, said there was no stopping the Enrile firm from resuming its operations.

He called on protesting groups to respect Defensor's order, which he said was within the bounds of law.

'Poor, if not poorer'

Macalalad also said the SJTC timber license agreement was merely suspended in 1989 and not revoked.

The Samar Island Biodiversity Foundation (SIBF), a consortium of about 60 nongovernment organizations, assailed Defensor for saying that Samar continued to be poor because it was refusing to open up to sustainable mining and logging.

"For his information, we are not poor because we don't recognize that sustainable mining and logging can be done. Rather, we don't recognize that sustainable mining and logging can be done precisely because, despite several logging and mining operations in the past, our island remains poor, if not poorer," Msgr. Walter Cerbito, SIBF vice president, said yesterday in a statement.

According to Corbito, Defensor's order allowing the Enrile firm to log in a protected area even while the DENR has ordered a log ban in 15 of the 16 regions nationwide "puts to doubt the sincerity of this administration's logging moratorium."

"The current laws governing logging operations are the same laws that governed [past] logging operations, which have been causing floods in many parts of the country," Corbito said.

He said it would be restitution for the people of Samar if Defensor, a staunch ally of the President's, would be sacked for "bartering" the island's forests for his political ambition.

Church and environment groups in eastern, northern and western Samar have united to fight Defensor's order. Three Catholic dioceses and the SIBF are preparing to take the case to court.

Nipas Act

The FPE said Congress could strengthen the conservation of Samar's forests—home to some of the world's rarest and most threatened flora and fauna—by enacting the creation of the nature park into law.

The nature park was created by virtue of Proclamation No. 442, which Ms Arroyo signed on Aug. 13, 2003. The proclamation must be legislated by Congress if it is to be covered by the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act of 1992.

"We have very few protected areas. We have a Nipas Act but we don't follow it; what we follow is the will of the people who put money in," Mesina said.

She said the effects of Defensor's order would be felt in a few years, as what happened with the denuded mountains of the Sierra Madre.

Late last year, thousands were displaced and killed in Quezon, Aurora and other parts of Luzon following flash floods and landslides, which local officials and environmentalists have attributed to forest degradation. ***With a report from Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Video triggers probe on cops' 'overkill' of carnap suspects

From page A1

who were already immobilized.

As the video surfaced, Traffic Management Group head Chief Supt. Augusto Angcanan ordered the creation of a body that will look into whether operational procedures were followed by the policemen who killed three suspected car thieves on Monday night.

It was Director General Arturo Lomibao, head of the Philippine National Police, who called for the probe.

The suspected car thieves were identified as Anthony Dulay, Francis Xavier Manzano and their driver Anton Guillermo Cu-Unjing. Police said the three were members of the Valle Verde Gang, a group involved in car theft. *(See sidebar below.)*

The video, captured by the UHF channel UNTV, showed what happened after the initial encounter. The man holding the camera was looking down; it was likely he was two or three floors up in a building adjacent to the street where the alleged shootout happened.

The video showed a man, who turned out to be Senior Insp. Samson Belmonte, limping. He was later brought to the Medical City for a gunshot wound in the leg. He was in civilian clothes. Two of his colleagues accompanied him to a car.

Slumped in front seat

The next shot showed two cars—an unmarked vehicle and the suspects' car—on Garnet Street in the Ortigas Center. Two persons were visible in the front seats of the suspects' car. They were not moving.

A man carrying a long firearm leveled at the car was the first to inspect the suspects' car. The man, supposedly an officer, had his flashlight on and the beam of the light showed two men slumped in the front seat of the car.

Another officer, also in civilian clothes, came forward to check the car. They were later joined by at least four men, all of them cautiously inching forward, their long firearms at eye level.

One of the officers opened the door at the back, and another the door on the passenger's side.

Guns blazing

A minute or two lapsed. A shot was heard and the body of the man in the passenger seat seemed to jerk. Three shots followed; they were visible because of the flashing of the guns' muzzles.

"What we observe here in the video shall be the subject of the inquiry," said the police spokesperson, Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

Angcanan told ANC, a cable channel, that the inquiry would delve into "the criminal and administrative aspects of the issue." All 10 officers involved in the shooting were relieved of their posts yesterday.

The inquiry shall determine whether rules of engagement were followed, according to Bataoil.

The PNP manual of operational procedures states what steps to take immediately after a shootout.

The manual says the officer in charge of the operation shall:

- Secure the site of confrontation.
- Check whether the situation still poses imminent danger.
- Evacuate the wounded to the nearest hospital.
- Account for the killed, wounded, and arrested persons for proper disposition.

Legitimate operation

Bataoil, however, insisted that Monday's encounter was a legitimate operation.

"Task Force Limbas operated on the basis of positive information," he said.

The fact-finding body shall be composed of "competent men" led by Senior Supt. Luisito Maralit, the TMG's deputy chief for operation, according to Angcanan.

"Let me assure you and the public that this will be a very fair investigation. There shall be no whitewash," he said. "I assure that if there is any violation, they will face the consequences of their actions."

Angcanan did not want to comment on the UNTV video but he acknowledged as "very valid" the observation that the officers had fired at persons who were not moving.

Irregular

In an interview over ANC Channel, Angcanan said that shooting a suspect who had already been immobilized was "irregular."

The first thing to do is try to bring the wounded to the nearest hospital, he said. But viewing what happened from a distance, he said, was different from being on the ground immediately during or after the fire fight.

Angcanan said an informant, who had access to the remnants of the Valle Verde Group, had been feeding the police information about the group's activities.

On Monday night, the informant told the police that the group was to meet in a popular night strip in Ortigas and would strike anew that night.

Acting on the tip, the police set a checkpoint near the area, which officials described as manned by men in uniform.

Car chase

When the car was flagged down by officers in a marked car, however, it sped away. The police caught up with the car on Garnet Street in front of the AIC Gold building.

"At this juncture, (Senior Inspector) Belmonte immediately alighted from their vehicle purposely to give signal to the occupants of said MV (motor vehicle) to stop, but the suspects opened fire, hitting subject police officer in his right lower knee," a spot report said.

"The members of the responding team were forced to retaliate, which triggered an exchange of gunfire causing the instantaneous death of three malefactors," the report said.

The police are now awaiting the results of ballistic tests conducted by the PNP crime laboratory on the firearms—a 9 mm pistol and a 9 mm Ingram machine-gun found in the car.

Correction

ON Page A17 in yesterday's issue, "Inquirer Southern Luzon" was mistakenly used as the section heading. It should have been "Inquirer Northern Luzon."

Cops say Valle Verde Gang stole 22 cars

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE VALLE VERDE GANG WAS responsible for the theft of 22 vehicles, some of them forcibly, over the past three months, two police officers who have been tracking the group told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"The group has become very active during the last few weeks," one officer involved in a police operation on Tuesday said.

The officers agreed to speak to the INQUIRER on condition of anonymity, saying they do not want their identities revealed because of the sensitivity of their job.

By the officers' account, the Valle Verde Gang, which first gained notoriety in the late 1990s and the early 2000s, is a well-funded crime syndicate that takes advantage of the cover afforded by two posh villages in Metro Manila.

One of them is Valle Verde 2 in Pasig City. The other is near the boundary of Marikina City and Quezon City. The officers did not want to disclose, in the meantime, the name of the second subdivision.

"The police have no access to these villages, but every time a car is stolen, there is a sighting (of the stolen vehicle) in either of the two subdivisions," the second officer said.

"I would say about 60 percent of the 22 vehicles stolen were sighted in Valle Verde 2," he said.

"Lately, they have shifted their hiding place to the garages of hotels also in Quezon City," he said.

At dawn yesterday, the police recovered an abandoned Toyota Prado in Valle Verde. It was stolen last month, the officer said.

"This might already be the result of the operation on Monday night. We think some of its members panicked, and abandoned the car. We are waiting for its owner to claim it, and tell us more about what happened," the second officer said.

The police team tracking the group has an informant with access to the group.

Hours before the shootout, the suspects—Brian Dulay, Francis Manzano and Antonio Cu-unjeng—meet with three other men in a coffee shop in a popular night strip near the scene of the shootout.

They were going to strike again that night, according to their informant.

"We wanted to get them alive because we wanted to interrogate them. These are just three persons. We wanted to nail the entire group," the second officer said. "And I tell you, this is a huge group."

At one point during the supposed meeting, the six suspects exchanged long and short firearms.

"At least one long firearm was brought to the other car, and a machine pistol was brought to the car that figured in the encounter," the officer said.

"Dulay was seen with a handgun tucked in his waistband. We wanted to move in right there in the coffee shop, but when we were told about the long firearms, we decided against it," the officer said. "It was too risky; bystanders could get hurt."

Dulay, the officers said, was the one who had rented the car where he and the two others died in the shootout. He had introduced himself to the car rental company as a "balikbayan."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, November 10, 2005
32nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Wis 7:22-8:1
Gospel: Luke 17:20-25

The Pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God was to come. He answered, "The kingdom of God is not like something you can observe and say of it: 'Look, here it is! There it is!' See, the kingdom of God is among you."

And Jesus said to his disciples, "The time is at hand when you will long to see one of the glorious days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. Then people will tell you: 'Look there! Look here!' Do not go, do not follow them. As lightning flashes from one end of the sky to the other, so will it be with the Son of Man. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this people."

Commentary

Where is the kingdom of heaven? What does it look like? Jesus is being questioned and the Pharisees are pushing him to be specific. But he refuses, answering in a one-line parable: the kingdom of God is among you—and of course, he's referring to himself, his presence in their midst which they are blind to recognize. And to his disciples he warns them, that they too want to see his glory, but not to get caught in that trap but remember that he has warned them that the Son of Man will be rejected and suffer many things first before they see his glory. Are we discouraged at such words? It is time to face the long road ahead relying on the Word of God among us and his presence hidden in the poor and all of history.

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RP program seen to attract foreign patients

By Leila B. Salaverria

TO KEEP DOCTORS AND NURSES from leaving the Philippines and entice back those who have left, the government will bring the foreign patients to the country.

The Philippine Medical Tourism (PMT) program, set for launching next month, is aimed at attracting foreigners to come to the Philippines for medical treatment and enjoy the country's tourist attractions on the side.

Authorities hope the program will not just bring in the much-needed revenues but also stem the exodus of medical professionals.

The first phase, with five government and five private hospitals participating, will have its soft launch on Dec. 14.

According to Health Undersecretary Dr. Jade del Mundo, the perceived lack of medical experts because of the medical brain drain would not hinder the program but would in fact stop the exodus.

"Those in United States will be enticed to come back and those in the Philippines will be enticed to stay. In effect, we'll keep the doctors here," he said.

Del Mundo said doctors participating in the PMT would be receiving higher compensation.

"Their salaries will increase. We'll make sure the compensation will be of international standards," he said.

He said the Philippines enjoys several advantages in this field as its medical professionals are highly skilled and proficient in English. Also, medical costs here are comparatively lower than in the West.

When you couple these benefits with the tourist attractions and exotic locales, it would make an attractive package, he said.

Not all doctors will qualify to practice under the PMT. Only those who come from accredited institutions and have received the proper training would be allowed to participate, he said.

Also, only accredited government and private hospitals would be allowed to treat patients under the program.

The government expects to earn $300 million from the PMT's first year of operation and $1 billion a year for the next five years.

The medical procedures to be offered range from elective, which include liposuction, cosmetic surgery and dental surgery, to life-saving, including kidney transplants, cancer treatment and coronary bypass surgery.

State hospitals participating in the first phase of the PMT are the Philippine Heart Center, the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, the Lung Center, the Children's Medical Center and the East Avenue Medical Center.

The private hospitals are the St. Luke's Medical Center, the Asian Hospital, Medical City, the Makati Medical Center, and the Capitol Medical Center.

The government also plans to put up medical centers in tourist destinations like Boracay where simpler medical procedures can be performed.

US urges RP to stop human trafficking

THE PHILIPPINES IS NOT DOING enough to curb human trafficking with no one so far prosecuted for the crime, a US official said Wednesday.

US Embassy deputy chief of mission Scott Bellard said the lack of prosecutions was a major factor in the State Department's decision to retain the Philippines in Tier 2 of its watch list in its annual "Trafficking in Persons Report."

"We need to see more progress in prosecution and convictions this year to avoid a downgrade to tier three next year," Bellard said during a police workshop on preventing the crime.

He noted that the Philippines in 2003 passed a law penalizing human trafficking and called on authorities to "aggressively pursue prosecutions" and obtain timely convictions.

In the report the Philippines was cited as a source, transit point and destination for trafficked women, men and children.

Others in the same tier of the watch list are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belize, Cameroon, China, the Dominican Republic, Gambia, Greece, Haiti, India, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Niger, Russia, Rwanda, Sierre Leone, South Africa, Surinam, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe. *AFP*

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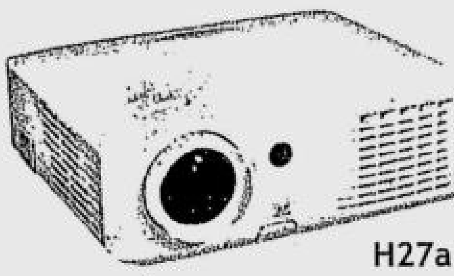
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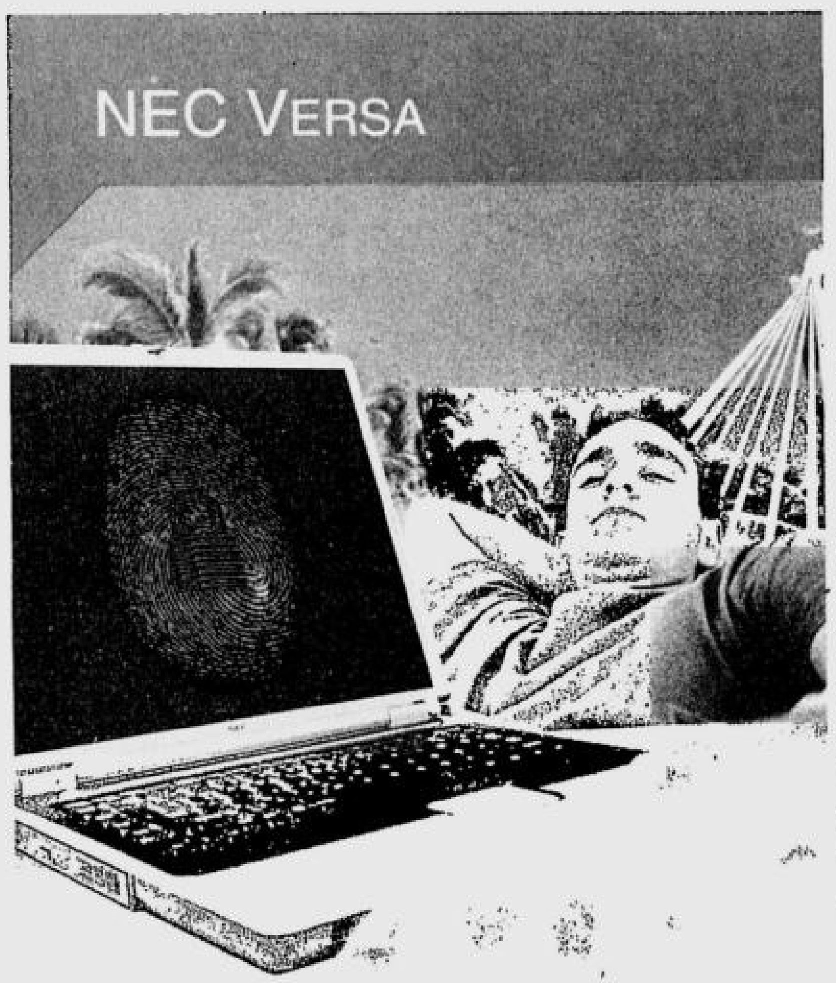

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BMW 325i Exec.	Black Sapphire	2004	P3,500,000	P2,200,000
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BMW X5 3.0d Lim. Ed.	Black Sapphire	2005	P5,512,000	P5,038,430
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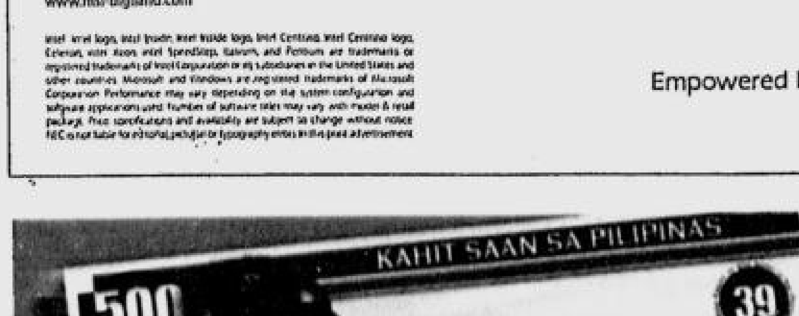

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

WB seeks $1-B bird flu fund; China outbreak spreads

GENEVA—HEALTH AND VETErinary officials from across the world hope to clinch a global plan on Wednesday for tackling bird flu before it mutates into a form that could sweep the globe and kill millions of people.

Highlighting the threat, China said an outbreak there announced last week had now spread to 18 townships, making controlling the disease that much harder.

The officials meeting in Geneva are focusing on steps to stamp out the H5N1 avian virus in poultry as well as better prepare nations should a pandemic break out.

Health experts say that is most likely in Asia where the virus has killed 64 people, is endemic in most poultry flocks and where farmers live closely among their livestock.

But many Asian nations do not have the financial resources to put in place vital surveillance and reporting mechanisms or compensate farmers when their poultry are culled. Africa is also at great risk should bird flu emerge there.

In Geneva, where the three-day talks end on Wednesday, the World Bank said it will reveal a proposed $1-billion war chest to tackle bird flu.

"My hope is that we will get the framework of how financing can be done. I am pretty confident," said Jim Adams, World Bank vice president for operations policy and country services.

Bernard Vallat, director general of the World Animal Health Organization (OIE), said that in two days of debate the meeting had agreed "financial support was crucial, particularly for developing countries," adding this would be discussed on Wednesday.

A World Bank team has drawn up a country model or template for assessing financial needs, according to Adams. "It is what a sample programme would look like both in endemic countries and in countries at risk. It is a good start," he said.

Since late 2003, the H5N1 flu virus has killed 42 people in Vietnam, 13 in Thailand, five in Indonesia—where a sixth is suspected—and four in Cambodia.

It has killed millions of poultry and remains hard for humans to catch. But scientists say the virus, like all influenza viruses, is steadily mutating and could acquire the genetic changes that make it easy to pass among humans.

It is unclear when or if H5N1 will mutate this way or how virulent it will be—but if it does, people will not have immunity to the new strain.

The World Bank says a flu pandemic lasting a year could cost the global economy up to $800 billion.

China has yet to report any human cases of bird flu but has suffered four outbreaks in poultry in a month. The latest, announced last week, is in northeastern Liaoning, where 6 million birds have been slaughtered.

To stop the spread, the agriculture ministry was also strengthening its cordon around the outbreak area, Xinhua news agency said. But this could be hard to enforce as the province is on a major track for migratory birds, which are widely blamed for spreading H5N1.

Japanese authorities said they would cull about 170,000 chickens at a farm north of Tokyo after an avian flu virus was found there. *Reuters*

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Emergency powers fail to stop rioting

PARIS—A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN RIOT AREAS OF France failed to prevent a 13th night of rioting in poor city suburbs Wednesday as youths torched more than 600 vehicles.

But police said the violence appeared to be waning, with fewer incidents pitting rioters against the security forces and no reports of shots fired.

The government Tuesday declared a state of emergency covering the worst-hit parts of the country under a decree, which came into force Wednesday after it was published in the official journal, allowing regional authorities to declare curfews to combat the violence.

The first to act under the new powers, the city of Amiens north of Paris, declared an overnight curfew for unaccompanied persons under 16 and a ban on petrol sales to minors, even before the decree came into force.

Mayors have already declared separate, local curfews, in Orléans and Savigny-sur-Orge, both south of Paris, and in Raincy northeast of the capital.

Across the country, 617 vehicles were torched overnight, compared to 1,173 on Tuesday, said Claude Gueant, a senior aide to Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy. He said 1,800 people had been arrested since the riots erupted.

Despite the car-burnings and arrests, police said the overall situation was calmer than on recent nights, when dozens of police officers were injured, two by gunshot.

"There has been a marked decrease (in violence), particularly in the provinces, and the downward trend is continuing in Île-de-France (the greater Paris region)," a national police official said.

Sarkozy, visiting police Tuesday in southwestern Toulouse, a flashpoint of unrest in recent days, said there had been a "fairly significant fall" in the violence.

Earlier, on the outskirts of Toulouse, police charged a gang of youths who had attacked them with stones and firebombs.

A gas-powered bus exploded after it came under attack with a Molotov cocktail in the Bordeaux suburbs, also in the southwest.

In southeastern France, Lyon's entire public transport network was shut down after a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a train station.

And around 50 youths tried, unsuccessfully, to ram their way into a supermarket in the Mediterranean city of Marseille, where 25 people were arrested and 38 vehicles and dustbins torched overnight.

In Arras, in northern France, a fire ripped through a shopping center, spreading from a furniture store to a carpet retailer next door.

The situation was relatively calm in the northeast Paris suburbs where the violence began, police said, with isolated cases of arson and a dozen arrests.

The French government's emergency measure was the toughest response to date to rioting in high-immigration suburbs which has left more than 6,000 cars burned, dozens of policemen injured and one civilian dead.

It invoked a 1955 law, enacted at the start of troubles that triggered the war of independence in French-controlled Algeria, which permits the declaration of curfews, house searches and bans on public meetings.

Seventy-three percent of French people support the government's curfew decision, according to a poll to appear in Le Parisien/Aujourd'hui newspaper.

But some have charged that the measure recalls one of the worst moments in the country's modern history and has painful associations for Algerians, the original law's main targets.

Sarkozy vowed on Tuesday that the curfews would be implemented "in a manner proportional to the threat," insisting the French people wanted the government to show "firmness." *AFP*

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Court denies bail to Fujimori

SANTIAGO—CHILE'S SUPREME COURT denied bail to former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori on Tuesday as Peru began the slow process of trying to extradite him to face human rights and corruption charges.

Fujimori was arrested on Monday after arriving in Santiago on a surprise visit from Japan, where he lived for five years to avoid prosecution in Peru after his 1990-2000 rule collapsed in a corruption scandal.

Fujimori came to Chile because the courts here are the most impartial in the region and he thought he would get fair treatment, his lawyer said. He planned to use Chile as a base to run for president in Peru next year.

Supreme Court Judge Orlando Alvarez said he denied Fujimori bail to give Peru time to file an extradition request.

"This decision is not a surprise. We still believe that Fujimori will win his appeal and be released," said Fujimori spokesperson Carlos Raffo in Lima.

Fujimori, 67, is being held in a school that belongs to Chile's prison authority. Chile's minimum security prison burned down earlier this year.

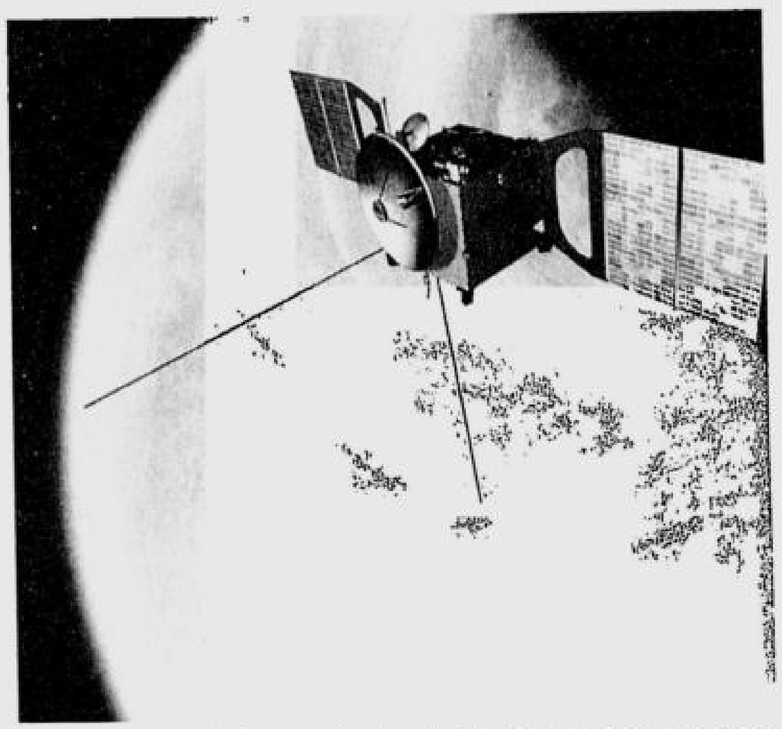
Fujimori's lawyer in Chile said he chose Chile carefully when he decided to move closer to Peru ahead of next year's presidential elections.

"We are confident that Chile's history of respect for due process no matter who the person is, will be repeated in the case of President Fujimori," his lawyer, Cesar Nakazaki, told Chile's National Television, noting Chile's courts have rejected extradition requests in the past.

"In coming to Chile, Fujimori knew the power would go to the courts to decide on extradition and that's what he wanted, he wanted to win time," said political scientist Patricio Navia of New York University.

Fujimori is reviled by many in Peru, but polls show that some 15 percent of Peruvians would support him if he ran for president.

He says he is confident the cases against him will be thrown out. Charges include responsibility for torture and death squad killings, bribing navy commanders and legislators and abandoning his post by resigning the presidency by fax from Japan. *Reuters*



THIS handout artist impression given by the European Space Agency shows planet Venus with Venus Express, the European Space Agency's first mission to explore Earth's closest neighbor. AFP

Europe launches 5-mo space mission to Venus

MOSCOW—THE FIRST SPACE mission in over 10 years to Earth's closest neighbor Venus blasted off Wednesday from the Russian cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan.

Venus Express, the European Space Agency's (ESA) first probe to the planet, will explore its unusual stormy atmosphere and runaway global warming in the hope of better understanding Earth's greenhouse-gas problem.

Venus, the second planet from the Sun, is similar in size, mass and age to Earth but has a vastly different and ferociously hot weather system.

Also known as the Evening Star, thanks to the bright light it reflects from the Sun, the planet is blanketed by thick clouds of suffocating gas driven by often hurricane-force winds and a surface pressure and temperature high enough to crush and melt lead.

The planet's clouds reflect back 80 percent of the Sun's radiation and absorb another 10 percent, leaving just 10 percent to filter down to the surface.

But the clouds provide such effective insulation the surface zone becomes a pressure cooker capable of melting metal.

"Venus has no surface water, a toxic, heavy atmosphere made up almost entirely of carbon dioxide (CO2) with clouds of sulphuric acid, and at the surface the atmospheric pressure is over 90 times that of Earth at sea-level," the ESA notes. *AFP*

Diarrhea outbreak hits quake survivors

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN—SEVERAL hundred survivors of South Asia's Oct. 8 earthquake have come down with acute diarrhea at a makeshift tent camp in Pakistan's portion of Kashmir, a World Health Organization official said Wednesday.

There was no immediate evidence that the diarrhea was due to a potentially deadly cholera outbreak, but the cases are "very serious," said Khalid Shibib, a WHO official in the Pakistani-Kashmir hub of Muzaffarabad, adding that health agencies are "taking all preventative measures."

Meanwhile, Pakistan and India opened a second crossing at their disputed Kashmir frontier to exchange quake aid, but did not go forward with much-awaited plans to allow residents of the divided territory to cross over to reunite with long-separated relatives.

In Muzaffarabad, an ethnic-based group that set up a relief camp pulled out of the city following a clash between its supporters and a rival Islamic group that injured two people, police said.

The 7.6-magnitude quake—which killed an estimated 87,350 people—also destroyed homes of more than 3 million people across northwestern Pakistan and its portion of Kashmir, many of whom have moved into tent camps set up in the Himalayan foothills. Some 1,350 of the deaths were in Indian territory.

Aid officials have warned that coming cold weather and squalid conditions at the camps could bring a new wave of deaths, and the United Nations has launched urgent appeals for more money.

In Muzaffarabad, several hundred survivors among 3,000 have come down with acute diarrhea at a tent village that sprang up spontaneously near a demolished university campus in Muzaffarabad, Shibib said.

The camp lacks proper sanitation, and international aid agencies were planning to dig latrines and bring in water on trucks for the camp residents on Wednesday.

"We have to deal with this," Shibib said.

Diarrhea can be caused by many forms of bacteria or viruses, but also can indicate serious illnesses such as cholera, which can cause rapid loss of bodily fluids, and without treatment, death within hours. Cholera is generally spread in contaminated water supplies.

The United Nations says its aid agencies need $42 million (euro36 million) to maintain the aid effort in the quake zone through November alone, and cites more shortfalls for the months ahead.

Wednesday's frontier exchange at the Chakothi-Uri crossing was the second since the two nuclear-armed rivals agreed Oct. 30 to open an unprecedented five crossings through their heavily guarded frontier. Both sides hope to go forward soon with civilian crossings once logistics are worked out.

Army and civilian officials on Wednesday exchanged hundreds of bags of rice from the Indian side, and several dozen bags of blankets and clothing from the Pakistani side.

"This is a step in the right direction," said Lt. Col. Chiragh, Pakistani army commander for the area.

Civilian crossings were delayed in part because the two sides need to scrutinize lists of candidates, and India fears separatist Muslim militants may be among those trying to cross.

Estimates of the quake's death toll stood Wednesday at 87,350 following a new count of the dead in Pakistan by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, working with local governments and aid agencies. *AP*

What killed Arafat remains a mystery

JERUSALEM—A YEAR HAS passed since the death of Yasser Arafat, yet the mystery surrounding his dramatic demise seems just as impenetrable, with many senior officials still holding strong to the belief their leader was poisoned.

The 75-year-old Palestinian leader died on Nov. 11 last year in a hospital near Paris. Airlifted to France on Oct. 29, he soon lapsed into a coma from which he never emerged.

Suspecting foul play at the hands of the Israelis who long uttered dark threats towards their grizzled leader, the Palestinians immediately set up a ministerial committee to probe the cause of his death.

But despite a year-long investigation, the committee drew a blank, leaving the people and their leaders none the wiser over their veteran leader's collapse and decline.

The medical report published by specialists who tested Arafat in Paris listed the immediate cause of death as a massive brain hemorrhage resulting from an infection.

But nowhere in the 558-page report does it say what caused the infection.

Although the French report found no trace of any known poison, it has done little to dispel gnawing doubts that Arafat was the victim of foul play.

Faruq Qaddumi, the Tunis-based Palestinian official who heads the dominant Fatah faction, is the most senior official to endorse the poisoning theory.

"I can categorically confirm that Abu Ammar (Arafat) was poisoned," he said in July, claiming the poison was hidden in his food and medication. Qaddumi has never produced any medical evidence to support his claim.

Other officials have been more circumspect with foreign minister and Arafat nephew Nasser al-Qidwa admitting that although no traces of known poison were discovered, he could not rule out the possibility.

Mustafa Barghuti, a medical doctor and politician who came a distant second in the January ballot that elected Mahmud Abbas as Arafat's successor, says it is impossible to discard the poisoning theory.

"Given the lack of medical explanation for his illness, whether it be infection, bacteria or haematological disease in the bone marrow... and since these symptoms are compatible with poisoning, one can conclude there is a high probability that this was the case," he told AFP.

Barghuti, who examined the main findings of the French report, is convinced that the specialists did not run exhaustive toxicology tests and that Arafat could have been infected by a rare, unknown substance. *AFP*

WorldBriefs

Terror evidence

SYDNEY—Detectives examined evidence Wednesday seized in a string of raids a day earlier in two Australian cities that police said headed off a major terror attack and led to the arrest of 17 suspects. Chemicals believed to be of the same type used in the deadly July 7 London bombings were confiscated in the raids in Sydney and Melbourne, along with computers, documents and backpacks. Victoria Police acting Deputy Commissioner Noel Ashby said police and security agencies were examining the evidence and could file more charges against nine men arrested in Melbourne and eight in Sydney. *AP*

Test for Blair

LONDON—British Prime Minister Tony Blair recalled his two top ministers from abroad for a knife-edge vote on Wednesday on laws allowing police to hold terrorism suspects for three months without trial, seen as a test of his authority. Defeat on the proposals would be the first major parliamentary loss for the once untouchable Labour leader, who has seen his dominance decline since the invasion of Iraq in 2003. British law currently allows suspects to be detained for 14 days before being charged or released. *Reuters*

Ban on torture

WASHINGTON—The US Defense Department has issued a broad policy directive prohibiting physical or mental torture during military interrogations, a spokesperson said Tuesday, amid controversy over the treatment of detainees from Afghanistan and Iraq. The directive calls for humane treatment but does not define it, leaving the issue to a separate directive that is still being debated, said Bryan Whitman, a Pentagon spokesperson. Signed by acting Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England on Nov. 5, the directive sets a broad policy on which a new army field manual on interrogations and other rules will be based, he said. *AFP*

Classified info leaks

WASHINGTON—The CIA has asked the Justice Department to review a possible leak of classified information to The Washington Post for an article on a secret CIA global prison system, a US official said on Tuesday. "The leak of classified information contained in the Washington Post story has been referred to the Justice Department by the CIA," said a US official who spoke on condition of anonymity. "It's illegal to leak classified information and classified information was leaked to the Washington Post," the official said. The newspaper reported last week that the CIA has been holding and interrogating al-Qaida captives at a secret facility in Eastern Europe. *Reuters*

Korea nuke talks

BEIJING—The United States stood its ground on Wednesday as a new round of six-party talks on North Korea began, saying the reclusive country had to abandon its nuclear weapons program before it could win any energy aid. Chief US negotiator Christopher Hill restated Washington's position that they have got to disarm and create a nuclear-free Korean peninsula. *Reuters*

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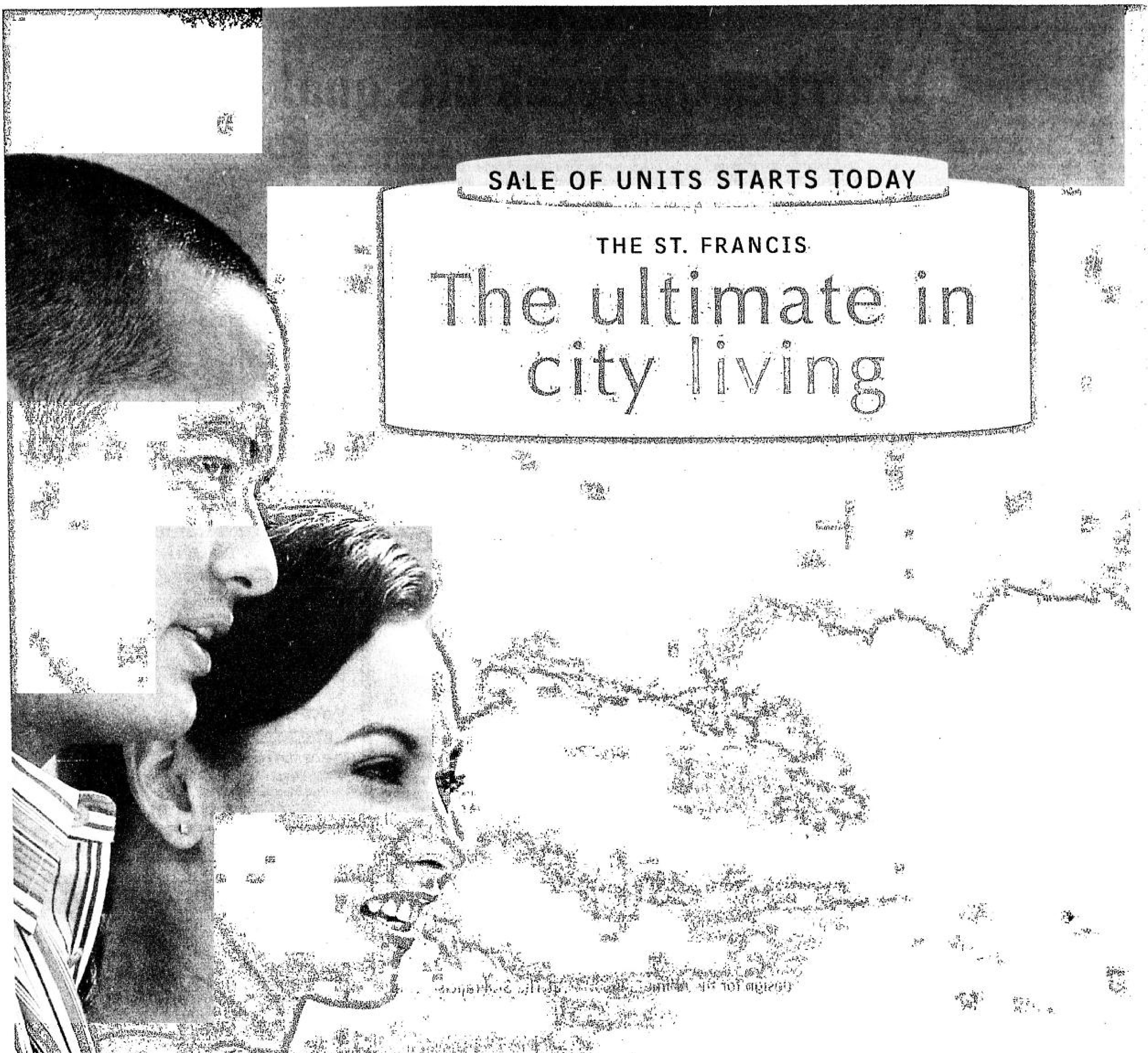
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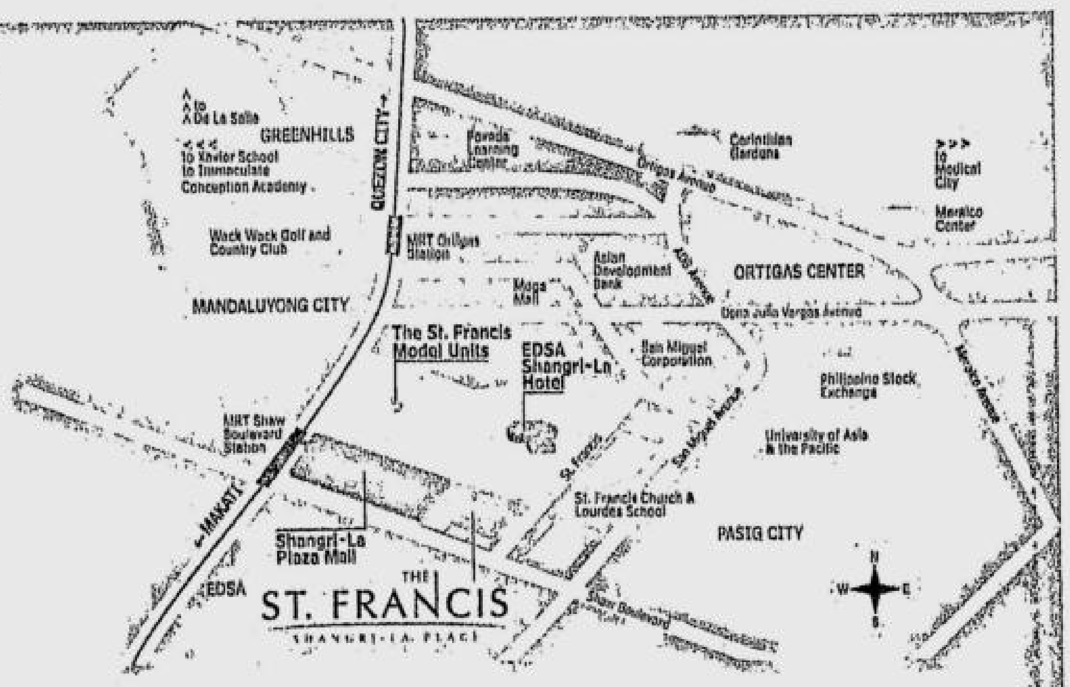
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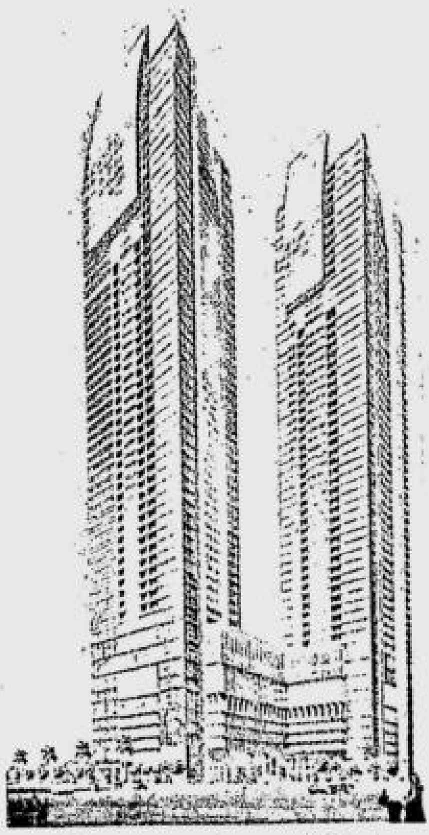

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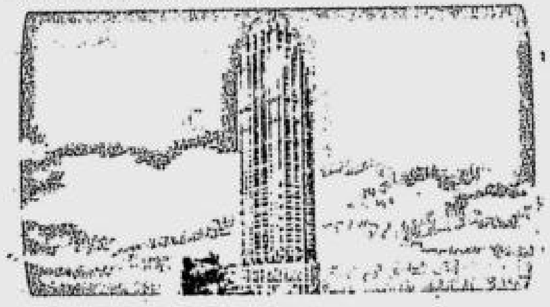

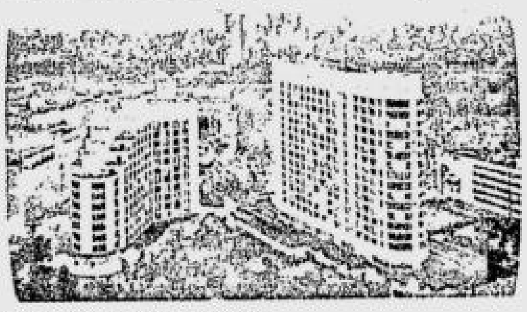

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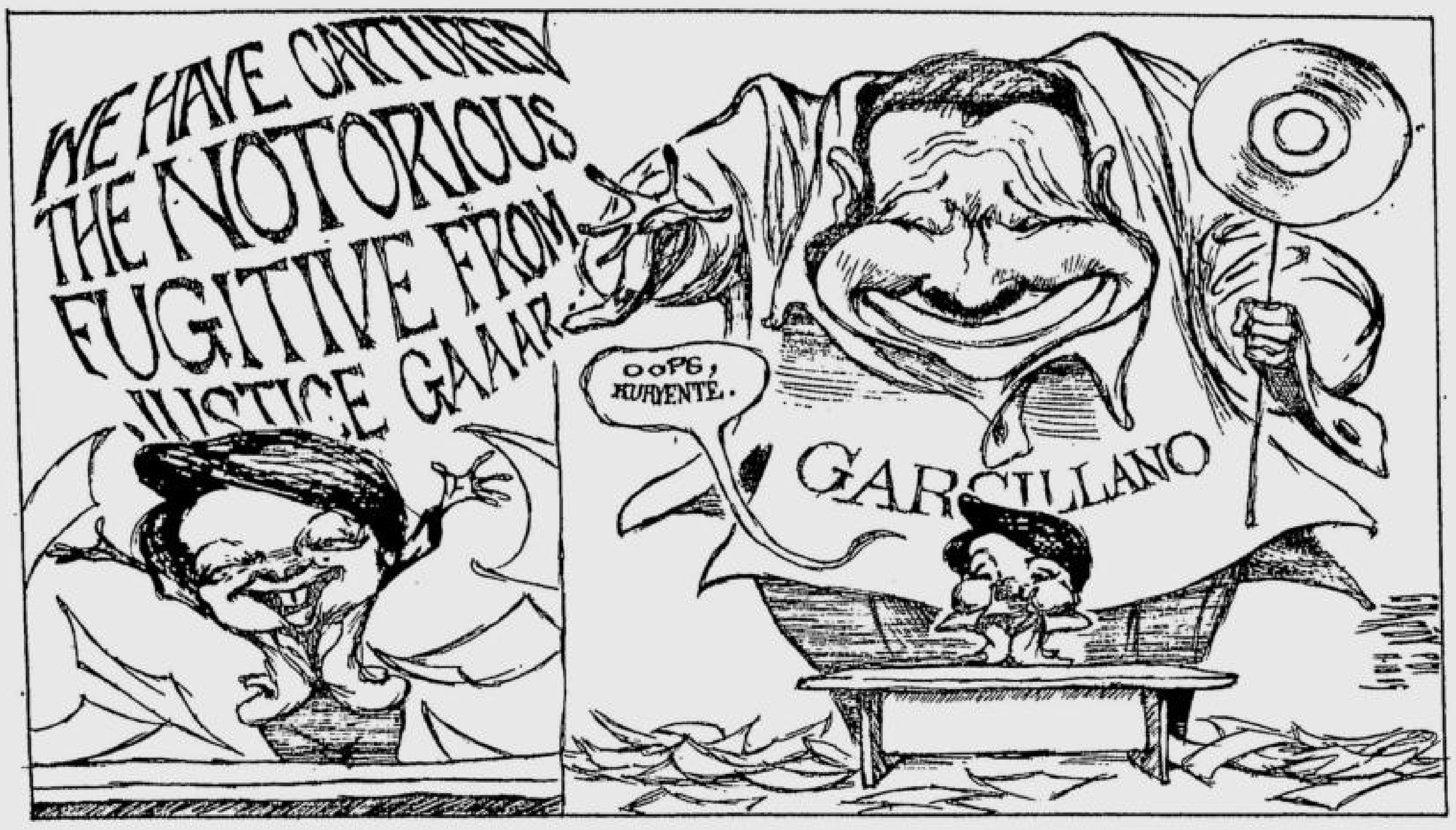
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GARCILLANO

Back in business

EDITORIAL

LIKE THE MOVIE STAR THAT HE IS, PAMPANGA REP. Mikey Arroyo made a big production of his return to the House of Representatives on Monday. With the local officials from his district in tow, Arroyo carried on as if he had come back in triumph after going on leave for five months, part of which he spent in self-imposed exile in the United States. But while he tried very hard to sound like a mature politician, if not a statesman, all he accomplished was to showcase his abysmal ignorance of his functions as a congressman.

Speaking before the media, Arroyo urged the country's political leaders to support the administration's "strong development agenda" which seeks to bring "more jobs, economic opportunities and improved basic services" to the people. "It's time for us to get back to work and do what taxpayers have voted us into office for, which is to pass constructive legislation for the benefit of all Filipinos," he said.

Had he stopped right there, Arroyo would have been fine, although there would have been more than a few people who would have raised their eyebrows in disbelief. But the neophyte congressman just had to expound on his idea of what his job required, and so revealed himself to be as *trapo* as the most unrepentant *trapo* in Congress.

Arroyo sought to flatter his political leaders and supporters in Pampanga by saying he was grateful for their support. The local officials, in particular, "helped ensure that we could perform our duties in our district during my official leave," he said. How? Did he perhaps delegate someone to represent him in Congress? If so, what legislation did his substitute sponsor? And how did he vote when the House deliberated on the impeachment complaint against the congressman's mother, President Macapagal-Arroyo?

In explaining why he terminated his leave, Arroyo said he needed to take part in the deliberations of the P1-trillion national government budget for 2006 on behalf of his constituents. He said he had to make sure that "there would be enough development projects" for his district.

Now, that's a more believable reason for hurrying back to his seat in Congress. When lawmakers talk of "development projects," they usually mean the pork barrel. And when anyone talks about the pork barrel, commission and kickbacks are mentioned in the same breath. Is this, perhaps, why Arroyo absolutely had to be back for the deliberations on the 2006 budget—to make sure he got a piece of the action? Then what was all that talk about "constructive legislation"?

The budget is undoubtedly one of the most important pieces of legislation that Congress must debate and deliberate upon. But the way they are conducted now, the congressional hearings and debates on the budget are little more than occasions to demand, haggle and bargain for bigger slabs of pork. This is one of the very few tasks to which lawmakers give their best effort.

They need the pork barrel for political survival, lawmakers say. And the kindest way of looking at it is that their constituents, very erroneously, measure their work in terms of project delivered instead of significant legislation sponsored and passed. In reality, most lawmakers need those projects to recover, through dishonest means, the millions they spent to get elected. That's one of the first lessons young lawmakers learn and put to practice quickly. Arroyo is not about to make himself an exception.

The President's son took an official leave from Congress in June amid charges that he had received thousands of pesos in bribes from *jueteng* operators. As scandal piled upon scandal, with the President herself standing accused of cheating in the 2004 elections, the younger Arroyo joined his father, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, in the United States in what the President described as an "act of sacrifice" that would "remove him from any situation which will cast doubt on my presidency." That was supposed to be the First Family's penance for any sins the public thought they had committed.

Since they left, no issue raised against them has been resolved, no controversy cleared. Most importantly, doubts remain about the legitimacy of Ms Arroyo's presidency. But they are back, both father and son. They are among the first to heed the President's call for everyone to move on. For the First Family, it's now business as usual. And finding the truth about all the charges leveled against them is nobody's business.

Scarecrow law

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"FISH IS THE LAST WILD DISH IN THE HUMAN diet." But overfishing has resulted in two-thirds of major species slump. Virtually, all additional fish on our dinner tables today come from ponds. But aquaculture is faltering as vital habitats like mangroves are wrecked.

"Aquaculture is a phenomenal success story," notes Science's current issue. But the boom-and-bust track record, etched by shoddily managed fish farms, sapped what some had hoped would be a "Blue Revolution."

Jurgenne H. Primavera is a Pew Fellow in marine conservation. She sketches this analysis in "Mangroves, Fishponds and the Quest for Sustainability," published in the influential world journal.

Only 8 percent of fish landed in 1975 came from ponds. Today, farmed fish account for more than a third, writes this Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center scientist. Nine out of every 10 tons come from Asia.

Brackish water pond culture dates back to Java in the year 1400. But today's over-extended farms are wrecking mangroves, the linchpin for this vital industry.

Thriving where sea meets the land, mangroves produce food, wood and medicine. They also offer forested buffer zones in a country clobbered by 20 or more typhoons yearly.

Indonesia and the Philippines carved out culture ponds from mangrove swamps. They're ideal for growing milkfish (*Chanos chanos*) that command premium prices.

But at what cost?

At the 20th century's turn, the Philippines had only 500,000 hectares of mangroves left. Half of that disappeared between 1951 and 1988, converted into ponds mainly for milkfish and shrimp. Thus, brackish water ponds quadrupled from 61,000 ha in 1940 to today's 230,000 ha.

This downward skid is worldwide. In 1990, mangroves extended over 18 million ha. By 2000, they covered only 15 million ha. "The losses were particularly heavy in Southeast Asia, which hosts a third of total mangrove area."

Growing populations, conversion into salt beds or farms, the urban sprawl with its factories, jacked up the pressure on mangroves. "Asphalt is often the last harvest" in these areas.

To redress "the present imbalance," ways must be crafted so aquaculture complements, rather than competes with, traditional open-sea fisheries, Primavera writes. At the same time, vital habitats like mangroves must be conserved.

This sector teeters between economic, social and immediate human needs, on one hand, and vital ecological goals, on the other. To adjudicate is difficult, Primavera says in an understatement.

There's already a surfeit of acts and decrees to conserve mangroves. But few are implemented.

The list of dead letter laws includes "greenbelt" promulgations under which government and communities are supposed to nurture mangrove strips of 20 to 50 meters wide along riverbanks. When facing open seas, greenbelts should be 50 to 100 meters.

"Today, an aerial view of the Philippine coastline will show a monotonous succession of ponds," Primavera writes. "(There's) hardly any green signs of mangroves."

The already weak implementation of laws is further hobbled by inadequate manpower and resources. National forestry and fishery agencies rarely get their act together. Above all, there's lack of political will.

"We must not make a scarecrow of the law/Setting it up to fear the birds of prey, and let it keep one shape/Till custom make it their perch, and not their terror," Shakespeare counseled.

Aggressive wetlands development became national policy in the 1950s. One main feature was the "bargain rate" leases. For P50 (less than a dollar at today's devalued rates) one could lease a hectare yearly.

"This is way out of line with estimated values of $538/ha per year and $42 to $156/ha per year, respectively, for fish and wood harvests from mangroves today," Primavera notes. But a strong fishpond industry lobby derailed upward revision. The courts may rule on rental increases this year.

That cannot be too soon. Underpricing of rights to harvest public forests triggered a stampede to convert mangroves into ponds. Many fish farms operate on expired or "pending applications." All too often, a single family corners hundreds of hectares of pond area.

"Twenty hectares is the most that a Filipino pond operator can realistically manage by himself," she points out. "Many ponds are underutilized or abandoned. And productivity is low compared to that of Thai shrimp farms, which average 2 ha or less."

In the Science article, Primavera recommends reduction of farm sizes. Aquaculturists can increase pond yields and pay the still modest lease fees. There's a scope for new technology, too.

Then, there's an example. In 28 case studies of exemplary forest management in Asia, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization cited Aklan's innovative mangrove reforestation program.

FAO's new book, titled "In Search of Excellence," documents how the Kalibo Save the Mangroves Association coaxed a mangrove forest into life from a bare mudflat in Barangay New Buswang. "Illegal cutting is down and the area is being promoted as an alternative tourism site alongside Boracay and the Ati-Atihan festival."

Primavera would call that "mangrove sense." But today, "sadly, most Filipino students of marine biology prefer the 'glamorous' coral reefs and seagrass beds to muddy, mosquito-infested mangroves."

But "I'll continue mentoring younger researchers in sustainable aquaculture and mangroves." That, she feels, is common sense in a sector where hunger haunts those who harvest fish for our tables.

* * *

Correction: In Nov. 8's Viewpoint, this sentence appears: "About 168 of his parishes are in the south." The number should have been 68. I missed that in the deadline haste. Mea culpa.

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Snap

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MANING ALMARIO HAD AN INTERESTING letter the other day in our Letters section. He takes exception to Ignacio Bunye's statement that "Corruption cannot be solved with just the snap of the fingers as it is deeply rooted in our culture." The dictionary, says Almario, defines culture as "the behavior, pattern, arts, beliefs, institutions and all other products of human work and thought, especially as expressed in one particular community or period." What patterns of thought, behavior, etc. in this country sanction corruption? "Name one!" he demands.

Corruption, Almario says, is no more endemic to this country than indolence is, a charge the friars levied on Filipinos, which Rizal refuted thoroughly. To suggest the Filipino is naturally corrupt is to heap as much abuse on him as his colonizers did. "Bunye's blaming Filipino 'culture' for corruption is a variation of GMA's blaming the 'system' for her 'lapse in judgment.'" In fact, says Almario, if corruption is rife in this country, "blame the lack of moral leadership in the present political and elite circles."

I sympathize completely with Almario when he says Bunye's exculpation of corruption under GMA as the product of a flawed national culture is exactly the same thing as GMA's exculpation of her conduct in the last elections as the product of a warped political system. It may be true that the political system is warped, but some leaders contribute to it more than others, some leaders warp it more than others. There is such a thing as personal greed, and some are more insatiable than others. Not every Filipino craves the presidency so much she would lie, cheat and steal to have it.

True, corruption in this country cannot be solved with just a snap of the fingers. But it can be spread like bird flu with just that. Mr. and Mrs. Pidal have been snapping their fingers all this time, not least during the last elections, a fact that former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin is perfectly willing to attest to, and monies have been disappearing all over the place.

But while I sympathize with Almario, I have to say, too, that it is true our culture has something to do with corruption. Almario asks us to name one Filipino pattern of thought or behavior that sanctions corruption. I will name three.

The first is getting by through connections. That is true, of course, in other countries: connections help you get places. But it takes inordinate form here, often completely replacing talent or even fitness as the prime criterion for being hired. My favorite example of this, one that is largely unseen, is the way we choose the godparents of our children. Rarely do we get honest and poor (the two almost always go together in this country) folk to stand as sponsors to our children's baptism or wedding. Almost invariably we choose rich and crooked (the two almost always go together in this country, too) people to do so. Or at least we do not inquire too closely about the sources of their substance. The reason being that we want our kids, or indeed ourselves, to have a "*konek*," someone who will help employ them or bail us out in times of trouble. I keep saying it: While we revile corruption publicly, we embrace it privately.

The second is that we do not have any real concept of taxes. This is a theory I've set out in a number of columns. We do have much revulsion for thieves. That is shown in the derisive term "*kawatan*," or far more dramatically in the fate that befalls pickpockets when they are caught in Cubao or Quiapo. We do not show the same revulsion for thieves in high places because we do not really consider them thieves. We do not consider them thieves because we do not consider the money they seize as ours. The way we tacitly, if not formally, see it, taxes are not our money, they are **their** money. Taxes are the gratuity or *balato*, we give our leaders. No one really seriously expects it to come back. If they give us part of it back in road repair and basketball courts, great. If not, well, it is to be expected.

The pickpocket who is caught in Cubao and Quiapo gets to live only by the skin of his teeth, the looter who is caught in Malacañang and Congress gets only to sponsor Charter change.

And finally we do have a pattern of thought and behavior that hugely abets corruption, if not sanctions it. Which is that most of us want to live in America: The Filipino Dream, as I've always said, is also the Filipino Tragedy. What is unique to Philippine corruption, which you do not find in its neighbors, is that Filipino crooks like to sink their loot in Swiss banks and/or property in California. Suharto stole more than Marcos—$35 billion as against $15 billion—but he kept it in Indonesia. Marcos stashed it abroad. Today, Jakarta has an airport with nice facilities, we have Naia and nasty hustlers.

That's what makes it so easy for the elite in this country, political and economic, to steal, and Almario is right about them setting a horrendous example. They do not particularly care what happens to the country because at the end of the day, when the country sinks to the bottom of the Pacific, they won't be around. They will be sipping wine in Napa Valley.

True enough, none of this will disappear overnight. Indeed, true enough, most of this will not disappear even after GMA goes. That doesn't mean GMA shouldn't go. As I said Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales argued that changing GMA won't solve all our problems, it won't, but it sure as hell will solve a great many of them. Leadership counts for a great deal, too. Good example is the greatest teacher there is, bad example is the greatest corruptor there is. Haven't you noticed that the people around GMA have now become uniformly arrogant?

Vice has been known to spread more quickly than virtue.

For an independent-minded ombudsman

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THAT PICTURE OF THE SUPPOSED "HECKLER" at the "People's Court" getting it smack on the nose, which must have been broken, says it all. It shows rabid partisanship running very high on both sides. The coming Southeast Asian Games, which our country will host in a number of cities in two weeks' time, should help cool down such hot passions, as we rechannel our national energies toward a more positive and healthier competition—regional sports.

* * *

All eyes are on the appointment soon to be made by President Macapagal-Arroyo of a new ombudsman to succeed resigned Simeon Marcelo. Fifteen nominations have been received by the Judicial and Bar Council, which has scheduled interviews for the candidates on Nov. 16, 17 and 18. From the 15, a short list containing three names will be prepared by the JBC headed by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. The list will then be submitted to the President who will make the final selection.

Last Tuesday, I wrote that I personally knew three people on the list, but I realized after a closer look that I also know longtime human rights lawyer Arno Sanidad, who reportedly has been nominated by the law office of Felicidad Aquino-Arroyo. Sanidad was a leading light in the anti-Marcos human rights movement and would doubtless make an independent ombudsman. But he may not be the type presidents appoint to that post (too independent, perhaps).

* * *

As I stressed last Tuesday, GMA's choice for ombudsman is crucial as this has a direct bearing on her anti-corruption campaign as well as her credibility. I earlier commented that Chief Presidential Legal Adviser Merceditas Gutierrez suffers from the perception of being very close to the First Gentleman (they were Ateneo law classmates). Mercy is perfect for her present post as it needs the President's utmost confidence. The ombudsman services the entire nation and should be independent.

In the same way, I hope GMA would not appoint anyone from or close to the Villaraza law office that represents the First Couple privately and is known to be formidable powerbrokers. Thus, Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez, who's very close to his Sigma Rho brod, the firm's top honcho, Pancho Villaraza, should be dropped from the list. It should be noted that Marcelo came from that firm and did a fairly creditable job, but people surmise that this is why he fell ill—from too much pressure. Besides Marcelo went through a seminary formation. Appointing Gutierrez or Fernandez would be perceived as an attempt to protect the Arroyo family's interest.

* * *

A number of legal luminaries called to say that they agreed with me that either Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio or the chair of the House contingent in the House Electoral Tribunal, Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas, would make a good ombudsman. Villa-Ignacio has exhibited enough independence of mind to merit the post. Cagas, a graduate of the University of the East who placed fourth in the bar exams, on the other hand, has exhibited an independent streak since his days as an assemblyman in the Batasan Pambansa. Yet, he has been a politician long enough to know when to yield and when to stick to his principles. Apparently, Cagas inherited his independent streak from his mother, Salud Ralota Cagas, who was widowed early and raised two lawyers, two doctors and one engineer by selling house wares in the market. Now 93, Salud Cagas has been living alone, without any helper and away from her children, for the past 50 years.

* * *

Leading UP-PGH ENT Dr. Mariano Caparas sent P1,000 to this column, through his wife Baby, in the hope that we could start a fund drive for PO2 Desilito A. Custodio, in recognition of his singular bravery in the government's anti-crime drive. Since I wasn't familiar with the PNP officer's case, I called up PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao and within an hour he sent a report about how the officer single-handedly fought a hold-up gang victimizing bus passengers. Custodio was aboard a Saint Benedict bus on Edsa bound for Cubao at 3:15 a.m. last Oct. 12, when four men, brandishing *balisongs*, announced a hold-up. Custodio immediately fired his gun, killing one of them. Two of his companions tried to attack the cop, but he managed to kill one and wound the other. The wounded guy and his fourth companion then scampered off the bus.

Custodio was recommended for spot promotion to SPO3. I will be turning over Dr. Caparas' money to Lomibao. If you want to send anything for this brave cop, feel free to do so.

* * *

Since Christmas is approaching, readers might be scouting for a worthy cause to adopt. Nothing could be worthier than sponsoring a student at Erda Technical Vocational High School in Pandacan, Manila, which gives children from the poorest families free education and training in technical skills. This five-year high school, founded by the saintly Fr. Pierre Tritz, S.J., seeks to impart technical training in any of about a dozen skills, such as automotive repair, electrical, carpentry, computer, baking, air-conditioning, etc. After on-the-job training with companies on their fifth year, the students are ready to work and help their families.

Erda Tech is able to provide free education and training by raising sponsorships for the students. Of the more than 500 students currently enrolled, however, 63 are still unsponsored—47 in first year, six in third year and 10 in fourth year. Sponsoring a student costs only P27,000 a year, a small amount to invest in the country's future. As Father Tritz puts it, only through proper education and training can the very poor break the cycle of poverty. Call him or the school administrator, Wilhelmina Martinez, if you wish to adopt an Erda Tech student at Tel. Nos. 564-1856 and 564-2608.

Women's letter to rape victim

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"WE BELIEVE IN YOU. WE DO NOT HAVE TO BEhold your face or know your name in order to say this."

Thus began the short but moving letter of 28 women's groups and their allies to the 22-year-old victim of rape allegedly committed by five US servicemen last Nov. 1 in Subic.

The letter, expressed profoundly in Filipino, offered solace and solidarity with the woman from Mindanao who met her tragic fate while visiting Subic. Some members of the women's groups that sent the letter are rape survivors themselves.

"We are with you while you weep, because your experience has been the experience of many of us. We are with you as you nurse the pain, because we also feel the pain when your dignity as a woman was trampled upon by US servicemen who had done the same to women in Angeles, Olongapo and other places. We are with you as you seek justice....We know that your healing will depend on many things, one of which is getting justice."

Those excerpts are for English speakers who do not understand Filipino. But there is nothing like reading the whole letter in the national language. It stabs deep into the heart. I hope the rape victim, whoever she is, wherever she is, would be able to read this and be convinced, really convinced, that she is not alone. Her *kabaro* are reaching out to her.

"Naniniwala kami sa 'yo, kabaro.

"Hindi namin kailangang makita ang iyong mukha o malaman ang iyong pangalan para masabi namin ito.

"Sa matagal na panahon ng aming pagsama at pagtulong sa mga biktima ng panggagahasa, alam namin kung gaano kahirap ang lumantad bilang biktima. Lalong hindi madali sa iyong kalagayan dahil ang iyong isinusuplong ay anim na sundalong Amerikano. Alam namin na hindi ka magrereklamo kung hindi totoo ang iyong sinasabi.

"Kaya naman sa tapang na iyong ipinakita para simulan ang hakbangin tungo sa hustisya, sinasabi namin na naniniwala kami sa iyo at nandito kami para tumulong sa abot ng aming makakaya.

"Hindi kaiba sa marami sa amin ang matinding pinsala sa kaisipan at pagkatao na bunga ng pangaabusong ito. Ilan sa amin ay naging biktima rin. Marami sa amin ay araw-araw na humaharap sa mga biktimang gaya mo at tumutulong bilang counselor, therapist, doktor, abogada, tagataguyod, kasama, kaibigan.

"Kasama mo kami sa iyong pag-iyak, dahil ang iyong karanasan ay karanasan ng marami. Kasama mo kami sa matinding sakit na iyong nararamdaman, dahil ramdam din namin ang pagyurak sa iyong dignidad at pagkatao, gaya ng ginawa ng maraming sundalong Amerikano sa maraming babae sa Angeles, Olongapo, at iba pang lugar. Kasama mo kami sa iyong paghangad ng hustisya, dahil ito ang nararapat at ito rin ang inaasam ng marami nating kabaro na naging biktima gaya mo.

"Alam namin na ang iyong paghilom at paggaling ay nakasalalay sa maraming bagay, kasama dito ang pagkuha ng hustisya.

"Sana ay maging matatag ka sa mga susunod na araw. Sa iyong pakikipaglaban para sa iyong dignidad at karapatan, taos-puso kaming nag-aalay ng aming tulong. Nandito kami. Handang samahan ka."

The women's groups, led by Women's Education, Development, Productivity, Research and Advocacy Organization (Wedpro), said they are willing to walk with the victim. *"Nandito kami. Handang samahan ka."* (We are here. Ready to be at your side.)

Aida Santos of Wedpro, however, stressed that "despite the women's outrage over the incident, and being reminded of past incidents, we need to take into consideration what the 22-year-old woman and her family want to do. She is the most important person in this case. We are trying our best to make a personal and hopefully quieter way of reaching out to her. This is a political issue, but most of all, this is a very personal issue."

Santos cited examples of victims opting to retract or go the way to an out-of-court settlement, leaving outraged sympathizers out in the cold. But rape being a public crime, there is no way the suspects could avoid prosecution if the evidence is strong.

I agree that this is a grave personal and national issue. The initial protests against the perpetrators of the crime and the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement are to be expected. But I also think that women's groups should not do an overkill without first hearing from the victim herself. Pressure from many sides could leave the victim confused and feeling that she is but a fodder in a raging issue.

What does she want for herself? How does she want the case resolved? What form of justice?

Santos pointed out that media's overemphasis on the fact that the victim was "not a sex worker" seemed to imply that, if she were a prostitute or a loose woman, it was okay to abuse her.

"Prostitute or not, drunk or not, no woman deserves to be used like a piece of commodity and thrown away," Santos said.

A visiting US national had earlier twitted women at a protest rally and, in front of the media, stated that the victim was probably a prostitute and, therefore, had it coming.

In a separate statement, the same women's groups demanded that the Philippine government pursue all means necessary to immediately prosecute those who committed the crime. "This is not the first time US soldiers showed pure contempt for a Filipino woman and, in effect, Filipino women in general."

Among the 28 signatories of the letter to the rape victim and the statement were Kalayaan, Likhaan, Women's Legal Bureau, Women Step In, Women's Rage, Women Working Together to Stop Violence Against Women, Nagkakaisang Kababaihan ng Angeles City and International Women's Network Against Militarism.

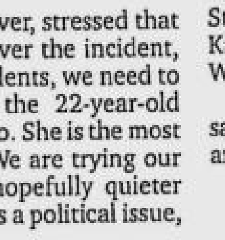
It has been announced that the next US ambassador to the Philippines is, for the first time, a woman. We are eager to know how she views the case.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

The basics of reforms

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

YESTERDAY, A FULL-PAGE AD CAME OUT. IT INtroduced the Black and White Movement (BWM) to the public. As a convenor of the movement, I deem it proper to share the reform agenda of this group with you.

The movement is more than opposing the present administration. It's about identifying a way out of our currently pathetic condition as a country. It's not a permanent organization. It does not aspire to be a party, it has no ambitions of being a Lakas-CMD. Instead, it views its role as one of helping to provide transitional leadership that will enhance public service and promote national unity.

The divisions of our society are temporary. The present political wounds can be healed. The process of change begins with identifying a road map for the future. This road map has signposts to guide us in our journey. These signposts have been identified in the BWM's "Eight Urgent Tasks for Meaningful Reform."

Perhaps, the BWM is old fashioned in believing that it is impossible to simply set aside politics and go on with life as if what happens in government doesn't matter. Members of a family don't simply abandon a sick loved one to the doctors and "move on" while he/she is either dying or recovering. What is true to a loved one is true to a beloved country. Taxpayers and citizens have to be actively involved in setting the direction it should take.

The BWM believes that the country will be best off under a constitutional successor to the President; whoever that successor is, the common goal should be to have presidential and vice presidential elections in 2007. This will ensure a government with a solid mandate, which is necessary for public peace and the return of domestic optimism. But even before the actual elections, the new government can embark on a closer collaborative effort between public officials and private citizens.

What is the reform agenda? The eight urgent tasks the movement is suggesting and these should be pursued even before a new president is elected. These are:

1. Electoral reforms. Obviously, there can be no credible elections without electoral reforms. What are needed? A new Commission on Election with competent and fair commissioners of the likes of former Commissioners Christian Monsod, Haydee Yorac and Harriet Demetriou. We need modern and transparent systems for casting and counting ballots. The systems should involve meaningful citizen participation in voter registration, vote casting, counting and canvassing.

And we need a Truth Commission on electoral fraud.

2. Reforms in the justice system. This means finding ways to move judicial processes faster. The processes must be more transparent and accessible to all citizens. This requires enhancing alternative dispute settlement mechanisms and developing paralegal systems. How many of us are aware of the benefits of the arbitration system which allows people to settle disputes swiftly yet fairly outside the court? We also need to strengthen the Court of Tax Appeals and the Office of the Ombudsman; set up special courts for settling business disputes, and ensure adequate and independent budgets for the judiciary.

3. Financial and economic reforms. Restore government revenues to the 1990s level in proportion to national income. Run after tax cheats (especially the most notorious ones who owe government billions of pesos in back taxes). Collect proper income taxes from businesses, doctors, lawyers, entertainers and others. Legislate and collect higher sin taxes. Exercise fiscal restraint. Reduce debt by creative, non-arbitrary means. Ensure a level playing field and curb rent-seeking.

4. Pro poor programs for marginal farmers (agrarian reform and sustainable agriculture), municipal fishers (marine sanctuaries and coastal delineation), indigenous peoples (ancestral domain), urban poor (socialized housing), labor (job generation and fair wages).

5. Reinvigorated peace efforts. Abandon discredited, purely military, tactics that have not worked and will not work; they just create new enemies. Step up negotiations with MILF, NDF-CPP-NPA, RPMP-PRA and RPMM-RPA. And respect peace agreements.

6. Environmental concerns: clean air; coastal, riverine and lagoonal resource management; forest protection and reforestation; soil fertility; solid waste management—all these should be adequately addressed.

7. Bureau and military reforms. Uphold transparency, accountability, citizen participation, responsiveness, efficiency and predictability as key elements of good governance. Use competence, integrity and commitment to good governance as basic values in setting the criteria for recruitment and promotion in public service. Restore the promotions and rewards systems in the AFP and the PNP. Develop effective strategies for defeating state enemies, preventing the rise of international terrorism in the country and winning the peace.

8. Constitutional reforms: "Cha-cha *pag wala na si* Gloria (if Gloria is out)," and "Con-con *dapat, huwag* Con-ass," are the slogans in play here. A Constitutional Convention is more acceptable, more participatory. It will provide an opportunity to reunite the country if every citizen and idea is given an equal chance to be heard in open campaigns, fair elections, transparent convention discussions, active media coverage and an honest plebiscite. The districts as well and interests (party-list) groups must be represented in the Con-con.

The overarching principle of the BWM's reform agenda is citizens' involvement in good governance. Good governance requires not only responsive officials but also active citizens. Governance is too important to be left to the bureaucrats; politics is too vital to be left to the politicians. We get the government we deserve

Ambition?

YOUNG BLOOD

Stacy Danika S. Alcantara

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AMBITIOUS. I HAVE ALWAYS WANted to do or accomplish things that I knew were simply beyond the capacity of people my age, and I had the creative streak to do it. Perhaps, that's how I started getting addicted to writing. It was an addiction that was hard to get rid of, like stopping the habit when one is a smoker. Believe me, the withdrawal syndrome has been nothing less than disheartening and painful.

Of late the passion is no longer the burning and raging fire that it used to be when I started. It's hard for me to accept the fact that there are days when I'd simply feel dreadful having to sit in front of a blank computer screen, debating with myself and feeling miserable about having to come up with a story that doesn't excite me. The smell of ink seeping into newsprint is no longer soothing and comforting; instead it irritates my lungs. Coming up with stories is no longer enchanting, but a tiresome and boring exercise. Words are no longer unique and animate, they have become clichés waiting to be forgotten.

I need inspiration to revive my passion. I need to get rid of this heavy feeling that consumes me whenever I think about or even hear the word "writing." I feel drained. I'm bored to death. I need motivation and I need it pronto.

I thought I had it back one ordinary day while I was basking in the silence of a rustic wooded space I called home. We lived on the second floor of what was once a kimono factory. The place we lived in used to be where all the weaving and embroidery were done until the factory was closed. Thin sheets of plywood divided the space into four main rooms: the bedroom, the prayer room, the clothes room, and the living and dining room.

A few steps from the narrow stairway leading to my uncle's part of the house were a couple of wooden bookshelves filled with paperbacks, most of which had never been touched much less opened. Right beside the two bookshelves was a steel-framed structure supporting several picture frames. The picture frames had gathered as much dust as the untouched books.

Below the picture frames was a drawer filled with what anyone would simply consider as clutter. There were pieces of delicate intermediate pad paper stuffed in an envelope together with creased photocopies of stories written in fat, cursive letters. There were sheets of short bond paper, yellowing at the edges, containing blotted, typewritten letters. Somewhere in this mess were computerized stories of the same sort, prettified with intricate borders along the paper's margin. On the far edge of the drawer were softbound quasi-novels.

When I was 10 years old, these things mattered a lot to me. I never saw the dog-eared sheets, the yellowing edges and the blotted letters as one big mess but simply the marks of a rising Palanca awardee. These were the remnants of the self I sought so badly to resurrect.

I took out the cluttered pile, risking getting my hands cut but quickly realizing that the paper was too limp to do that. I laid the stories down before me as I sat on the dusty carpet underneath the dim yellow light. I skimmed through the hand-written stories, all of which I could never consider as prose but more likely scripts, dialogues and plays. My eyes scanned the faulty dialogues and the ridiculous exchanges between the characters I had once brought to life.

I had not finished reading the first page of "The Search of Abdul Hashim Salamat" when I shook my head in disbelief. I couldn't have written this piece, now, could I? I found the stories lacking depth and development. They were all very superficial.

Superficial? The first play/story I wrote was thrilling back then when I had first written it. It was as swashbuckling as the adventures of Odysseus and Indiana Jones combined. I believed it contained cliffhangers and unexpected twists. The dialogues, I was convinced, were witty and meaningful and not the cheesy and naïve conversations I was reading now. I remembered how extremely happy I was to have written a story spanning 14 sheets of short bond paper, a feat I considered worthy of recognition.

Shaking my head at my utter innocence, I pushed the story away and read another one. It was one that betrayed my attempt at surpassing the works of Andrew Lloyd Webber: a play complete with songs and scenes, soliloquies, etc. The moment I put the very last period, I was convinced I had created another Broadway hit.

I gave up writing longhand when my aunt lent me her blue typewriter. The clickety-clack of the keys thrilled me and inspired me to finish six more plays, which I lent to classmates for reading. Some of the plays were performed during our classroom presentations and I regarded them as a stepping stone to a career as a great theater director.

As I grew older, my passion for plays waned and I felt challenged to write prose like all famous authors did. I realized that I didn't only want to see my plays being performed in cozy old theaters, but I wanted more to write books that I'd someday find on bookstore windows. When I picked up a thick hardbound volume lying on my table, I said to myself, "If they could do it, why can't I?"

And I tried. I managed to come up with 13 books, until I got sick of it.

I sat down and stared at the pieces of paper scattered in front of me and at the softbound galleys piled on top of each other. Wow. I was such a dreamer. I was such a seeker. I was so passionate about weaving stories and making people believe. I loved to whisk anyone away to a different zone and make things happen the way I wanted them. The paper felt soft and delicate on my fingers—so soft that I was afraid it might crumble at the slightest touch.

The stories I have written may not be enough to tell you how much I loved writing. Why was it so easy? Why was it so much fun and not frustrating? Perhaps because I believed it was easy. I believed it was fun. Or maybe I was just driven by so much ambition then.

Stacy Danika S. Alcantara, 16, is a freshman at the Silliman University School of Communication and the author of the published children's novel "The Secret of the Amulet."

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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Courageous lives, sources of strength

I READ WITH DEEP APPRECIATION the article "A tale of two protesters," written by Jocelyn Uy. (PDI, 10/22/05) It couldn't have been published at a better time—October was Tribal Filipino Month.

Awe-inspiring, the article paid tribute to indigenous martyrs like the late "Tatay Kano," who until he was shot in cold blood by the military in 2001, lived defending the Dumagat people's rights to ancestral lands in the Sierra Madre.

The story of his son Joselito, the 10-year-old protester who walked barefoot from Laguna to Mendiola in the five-day "Lakbayan" of peasants and indigenous peoples, is an allegory of how young generations always seek and draw courage from the legacy that their heroes, sometimes their very own mothers or fathers, have left. Indeed, Joselito now walks the path that his father had trudged for he, and his fellow Dumagats, continue the fight against the destruction of their ancestral lands.

Similarly, other indigenous tribes and clans in the country are on the brink of extinction. This is no exaggeration. In the face of heightened commercial logging, large-scale mining by foreign firms, construction and operations of giant hydro-electric dams, and other "development" projects, indigenous peoples have suffered from massive displacement and brutal human rights violations—mass killings, summary executions and hamletting, among other things.

On the one hand, success stories of how indigenous communities have fended off destructive development projects and unwanted military presence abound (e.g., the Igorot people's success in stopping the Chico Dam construction in Marcos' time. This, however, led to the murder of Apo Macliing Dulag, the Igorot martyr whose death led to the world's recognition of the Filipino indigenous peoples' struggle).

Under the present regime, the Ata Manobos of Talaingod, Davao del Norte have successfully resisted the expansion of a foreign commercial logging concession into their area, as well as the planned construction of a hydroelectric dam. As a result, their *datus* have been listed in the military's order of battle. Just recently and up to the present, the military hamletted their communities, causing another wave of forced evacuation.

Indeed, the common bond that ties the indigenous peoples in the country today is this life-and-death struggle—an assertion of their rights to determine freely their way of life.

In these challenging times, we find the need to draw strength from awe-inspiring lives and deaths which teach courage, selflessness and humble service to the people.

May these men and the countless true servants of the people, unjustly slain while defending their people's rights and freedoms, inspire each and everyone of us to continue the Filipino people's fight for truth, justice and genuine democracy.

—MAY VARGAS,
National Minority Resource Center-Tunay na Alyansa ng Bayan Alay sa Katutubo (NMRC-TABAK), Mapagbigay St., Barangay Pinyahan, Diliman, QC

An 'immorality' to be proud of

BEING A FAN OF HISTORY AND heritage, I read Bambi Harper's piece on "The French in the Philippines" (PDI, 10/17/05) with interest. However, since I am familiar with some of the sources mentioned by Denis Nardin, the writer she cited, I would like to offer some clarifications.

Le Gentil visited Manila in 1760-1771. He is quoted as saying that there is no "city where morals are more corrupt than Manila." But why did he say this? Did it have anything to do with politics? No.. The reason should make us proud. Le Gentil was shocked to see that the Manila-based Spaniards had adopted the native custom of frequent baths, and that men and women bathed in the river together while wearing thin clothes. Up to the 19th century, many Europeans thought frequent baths were dangerous both for the body (a source of chills) and the soul (a temptation to sensuality).

In another section, he lamented that Manila Spaniards had copied another native custom—men and women taking siesta together on mats laid out on the floor.

The article also pointed out that, by the end of the 18th century, we were considered "economically weak." Thus, there is this "tiresome feeling of déjà vu."

In all fairness, we also had periods of economic prosperity. In his classic book on the 19th-century Philippine economy, "After the Galleons," the economist Benito Legarda shows how economic expansion took place because of a vigorous inter-island and international trade. Entrepreneurs, whether European, Chinese, mestizo or native, became prosperous. While Harper has a nuanced view of historical process, many readers might conclude that the Philippines has always been at the rear. This is not true.

—FERNANDO N. ZIALCITA,
Tambo, Parañaque City

Is Cory saying Erap is innocent?

BELINDA OLIVARÈS-CUNANAN RECENTLY narrated in her column an event when the late Chino Roces was about to receive an award from then President Aquino in Malacañang. (PDI, 10/25/05) I was then in the inner circle of the Cory Aquino for President Movement (CAPM), which was led by Roces. I recall that Don Chino then was already so disappointed with the two-year-old Aquino administration, especially in the area of graft and corruption and the "Kamag-Anak Inc.," that at first he was hesitant to go to the Palace.

When he finally agreed to go, he prepared a very scathing and critical acceptance speech. We were quite shocked at the strong language, and we persuaded him to rewrite and tone it down. After all, he was Cory's special guest and it wouldn't look good to lambaste her in her own living room. We also argued that Don Chino's criticism might further weaken Cory's administration and give her enemies another weapon against her.

A team was formed to rewrite his speech. But when Don Chino finally delivered it before Cory and the guests, they were all stunned. One even commented "*Hindi maipinta ang mukha ni Presidente*. (The President's face was indescribable)." A number of former CAPM guys, such as Danny Olivares and Benito Bengzon, could corroborate my account.

While on the subject, I believe Cory does not have to be sorry she backed Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo against Joseph Estrada. People spilled into the streets against Erap without GMA in their minds. They just wanted Erap out. Thus, whether Cory backed GMA or not, the latter's becoming president was not due to her support. GMA succeeded Erap because our Constitution mandated it, just as Noli de Castro should be president in the event GMA's term is cut for whatever reason.

If Cory is now sorry she backed GMA against Erap, does that mean she's sorry she worked for his removal? If that's the case, does it also mean she's saying Erap is innocent of the plunder charge against him? Just asking.

—RAMON PELAEZ,
4 Boston St.,
Cubao, Quezon City

Rape case news in US

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE INQUIRER REport on the 22-year-old woman who was raped allegedly by five US soldiers in Subic. Prostitute or not, any woman raped or forced to engage in sex deserves justice and the rapists should by all means be punished in accordance to the law.

I hope there will be no whitewashing of the case and that the girl and her family will doggedly pursue the case in court instead of agreeing to an amicable settlement.

This issue was one of the major international news on TV this week here in Southern California and I feel it has the potential to explode in the US media in the coming weeks if the Philippine prosecutors will file formal charges against the rape's alleged perpetrators.

I hope the police and the prosecutors will be able to create an airtight case and avoid leaking their speculations to the media, which could weaken their case.

—E. PANCHANG LIMCAUCO,
La Verne, California, USA

Elusive MRT tickets

I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF THE MANagement of the Metro Rail Transit has become insensitive to the hassle that MRT commuters, especially the regular passengers, go through when buying a train ticket because of the acute shortage in the supply of stored value tickets.

I hope the head of MRT's management team will do something about this problem. Otherwise, he has no business staying in his post.

—RON ALDABA,
r_aldaba@yahoo.com

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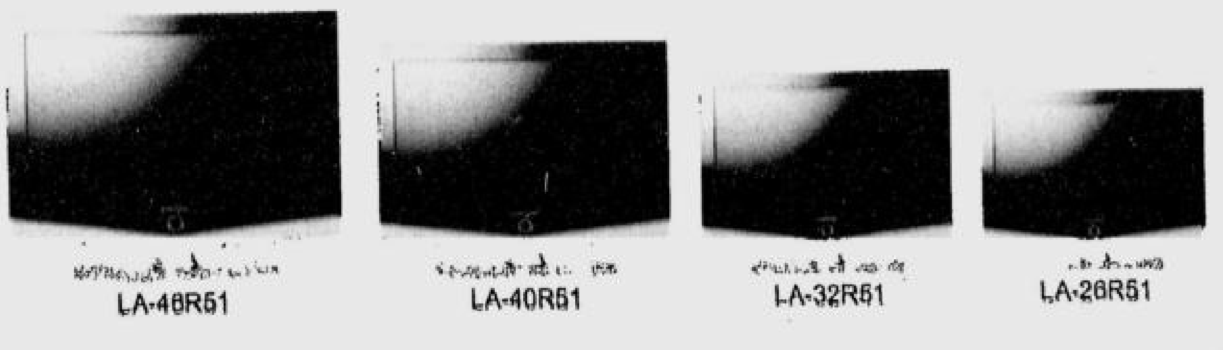

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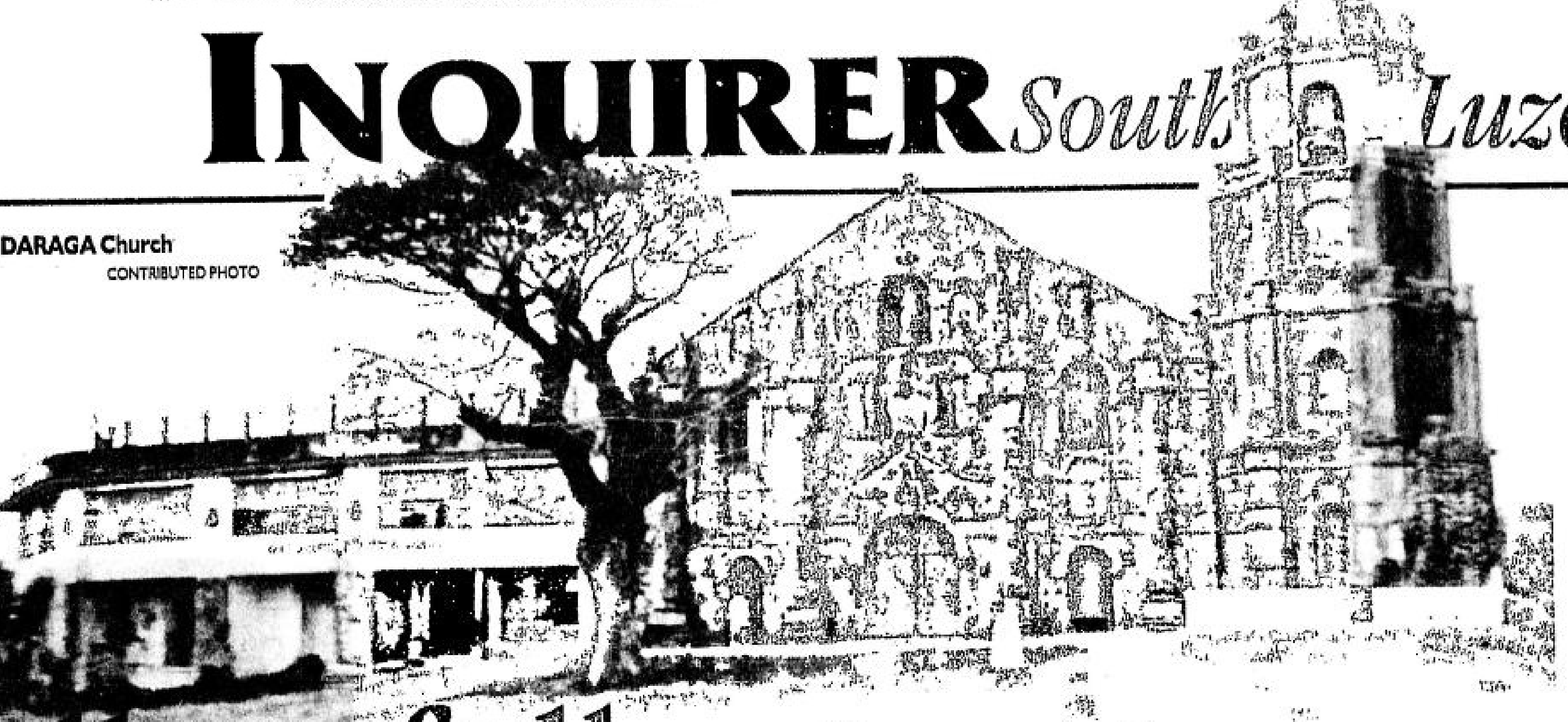
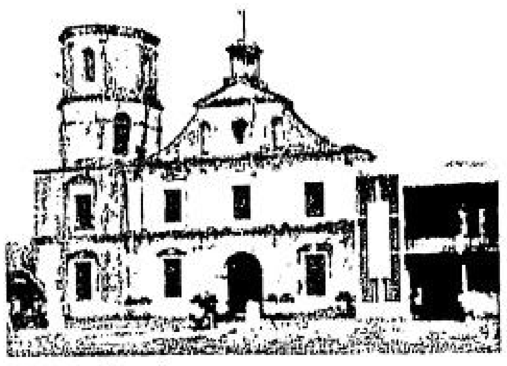


DARAGA Church
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



LIGAO Church CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Albay folk rebuild past

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
Legazpi City

SEVERAL HISTORICAL LANDmarks have been destroyed in some parts of the country to give way for commercial, residential and infrastructure projects, but in Albay, people are trying to restore those that are threatened or abandoned in their communities.

Concerned architects are collaborating to identify the landmarks in Albay, conduct research on them, retrieve old photos, and take photos of their present conditions.

The sites include the Tabaco Cimborio in Tabaco City; centuries-old churches in Sto. Domingo, Bacacay, Daraga, Camalig, Oas and Ligao towns; the Colegio de San Buenaventura ruins in Guinobatan; Villa Encantada in Malinao; Cagsawa Ruins in Daraga; Budiao in Daraga; Sinimbahan in Tiwi; the Spanish bridges in the third district of the province; the burial ground of "Sarung Banggi" composer Potenciano Gregorio; the Mayon resthouse; and the *mojones* along national and provincial roads.

Old photos of these landmarks have been enlarged and displayed in museums, schools and malls to create awareness and pride among Bicolanos.

The project aims to become a model and reference for other provinces in the region and elsewhere. Its productions will serve as a guide for architects and developers in reconstructing the landmarks and preserving their original structural designs.

Started early this year and expected to be completed in May next year, the project is being undertaken in collaboration with the Manila-based Instituto de Cervantes of Spain, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Heritage Conservation Society, Diocese of Legazpi, the provincial government and other concerned agencies.

The United Architects of the Philippines chapter in Legazpi and the Aquinas University College of Architecture and Fine Arts (Cafa) are spearheading the initiative. More than the retrieval and public display of old photos and the usual publication of historical writings, they seek to remind public and private institutions in the region of historical and cultural values in developing commercial establishments.

Reverse process

Eleven of the 16 identified heritage sites have already been documented. Information about them have been updated, while their architectural plans and sample outputs have been stored as computer-aided designs.

Architect Rino Fernandez, Cafa dean, said the project was being done in reverse, beginning with the existing conditions of the buildings—ruined, neglected, damaged, threatened or remarkably preserved—and ending with their plans and drawings.

It entails exhaustive field research and surveys of the sites so that accurate architectural plans that best represent the structures can be drawn.

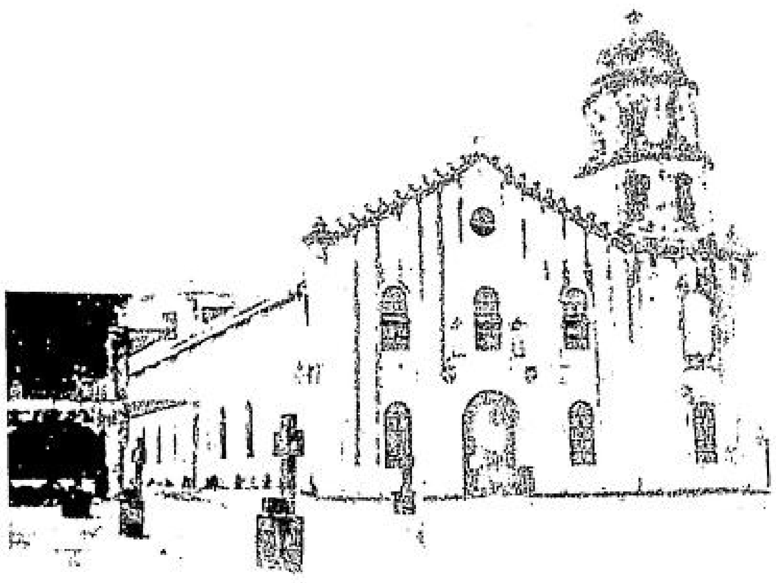
The architects and students have already come up with at least 68 old photos and descriptions of history and technical constructions. They intend to measure and determine changes or damages in certain Spanish-era churches and other edifices.

Avoiding ignorance

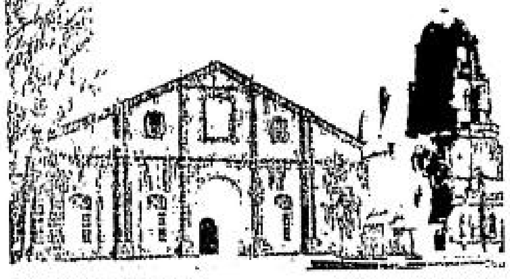
National agencies responsible for preserving and restoring heritage sites in the country have lauded the project as vital in addressing problems of ignorance and neglect of the sites among government officials and the public.

They found the undertaking important for urban development planners so that they could avoid further damage or destruction of the historical landmarks and invoke meaning to lessons of history and its continuity.

Anna "Bambi" Harper, an INQUIRER columnist, said in a message during the first provincial conference and presentation of plans for architectural heritage projects on Aug. 29 that the endeavor focused not only on restoring old churches that are continuously being used, ancestral houses, old bridges, garrisons, *mojones*, cemeteries and numerous old ruins in Albay, but also on the architectural drawings, which could bring up new pieces of information unearthed through historical and archival research.



GUINOBATAN Church CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



TABACO Church CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former tourism secretary Gemma Cruz-Araneta, who is now president of the Heritage Conservation Society, said unconventional efforts were being pursued in the project despite the existence of so many laws on preserving and restoring cultural and historical sites, which had been hardly implemented or simply ignored.

"Historical sensitivity requires more than having so many laws; it must adhere to the very indispensable truth about our history, that is, continuity through unity and cooperation, by which we should be blessed for that's what we're doing now," Araneta said.

Richard Bautista of the NCCA has pledged more technical support to raise public awareness about the use of the architectural plans through historical books or writings, in schools, government and private institutions, hotels, local museums, tourism offices and churches.

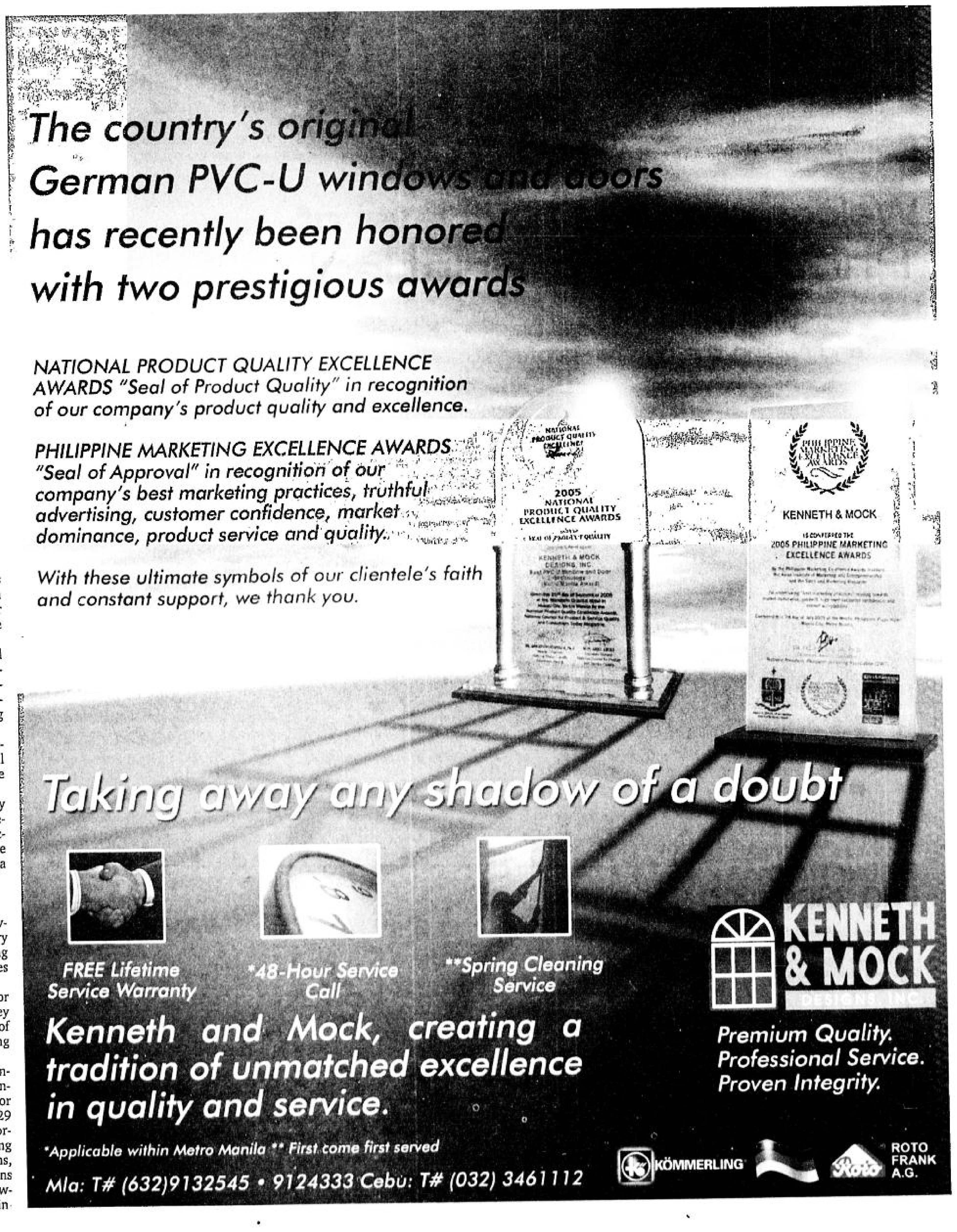
Spanish support

Javier Galvan, Spanish director of the Instituto de Cervantes, said the Spanish government was supporting the project.

"It is such a breakthrough that the local government of Albay has now shown more than just an interest in protecting and restoring landmarks here. They are in fact closely coordinating with the advocate-architects in making plans for urban development or future constructions," he said.

The institute donated P400,000 to the AUL-Cafa for further research and fellowships. It vowed to continuously support the advocacy program.

The Spanish government recognizes Legazpi as one of two cities or places in the country (the other being Legazpi Village in Makati City) named after the Spanish conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legazpi.



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DOH says 25M at risk of filariasis

IN THE KNOW

Filariasis is a disease usually found in tropical areas. It is caused by three types of parasitic worms—Wuchereria bancrofti, Brugia malayi and Brugia timori—which are transmitted by the same species of mosquitoes that spread malaria and yellow fever.

Adult worms live in an infected person's lymph vessels. During the incubation period that lasts from three months to a year, the following symptoms develop:

-reddish swelling in the legs, groin and abdomen
-low fever with chills
-headache, nausea, muscle pain
-edema and abscesses
-sensitivity to bright lights

Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

NAGA CITY—SOME 600,000 FILIPINOS ARE INfected with filariasis, a debilitating parasitic disease inflicted through mosquito bites, and another 25 million are at risk, Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III said here on Tuesday.

Duque, speaking at the launching of the "Filariasis Mass Drug Administration Kick-Off Program," said the government has been providing free medicines since 2001 to meet the World Health Organization's target of eliminating the disease by 2020.

He said filariasis is a parasitic infection transmitted and spread through mosquito carriers that deposit microscopic eggs of a parasite called "Wachereria bancrofti" into victims' bodies. These incubate in the blood.

The mosquito carriers breed in abaca, banana, taro and pandan plants or plants with stems that hold water.

Filariasis is endemic in 25 percent of Luzon, including the entire Bicol region, 19 percent of the Visayas and 68 percent of Mindanao.

The disease is widespread in 36 of 79 provinces in the Philippines.

The DOH said filariasis parasites live inside the lymphatics or the drainage of body fluids for five to 15 years.

It said 1.1 billion people worldwide are at risk of being infected.

Filariasis is the second leading cause of permanent disability with no symptoms in its early stages and can only be detected through blood analysis.

After several months or years of filariasis infection, several symptoms surface—recurring fever with chill, headache, inflammation of the underarm, muscle pain and whitish urine.

But when not treated, filariasis infection can cause enlargement of legs and feet (elephantiasis), arms, mammary glands and scrotum, causing permanent disability. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

De Venecia lures anti-gambling bishop to cooperate with gov't

DAGUPAN CITY—CAN THE MASTER POLITIcian convince the staunch anti-gambling advocate to finally agree to a legal numbers game being implemented in the country?

Speaker Jose de Venecia asked Dagupan-Lingayen Archbishop Oscar Cruz to help the national government create "a new structure" on gambling on which the Catholic Church and the government "can agree on and cooperate together."

De Venecia had a one-on-one talk with Cruz about the "jueteng" issue during the investiture of MacArthur Samson as the second president of the University of Luzon on Monday.

"I asked him to work out a philosophical basis for the new (gambling) structure that the Church and the executive can agree on and cooperate together," De Venecia said.

"We will see what this formula will be," he added.

Cruz, according to De Venecia, is concerned about the money of the poor being taken by corrupt elements "so we are thinking of something like the lotto program of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and make it the basis for the nationwide structure."

De Venecia said he was hopeful that the Church and the national government could come out with an acceptable formula.

He said both of them agreed to continue to develop this idea and exchange notes.

"It's difficult but we will try. His reaction is very constructive, and I salute him. We love him in Pangasinan (where) he is highly regarded. Let us make use of his great wisdom, great courage and love for the poor," De Venecia said.

The Speaker said he was also optimistic that he could bring Cruz and President Macapagal-Arroyo together "because they have the same ideas."

"Without realizing it, Bishop Cruz and President Arroyo share the same idea but the intriguers have managed to create a gap and an ocean of antagonism and disagreements between them," he said.

"Both of them have the same view, both of them share the same idealism so it's easy to reconcile them," he added. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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SMOKESTACKS
Environmental activists belonging to the group Greenpeace rally in front of the Asian Development Bank to ask the ADB to stop helping build in the Philippines power plants, particularly coal-fed ones, that contribute to pollution and climate change.

279-yr-old bell stolen in Cagayan

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A 279-year-old bell was stolen from its belfry in a church in Gattaran, Cagayan on Sunday night, police said.

The bell, called "Santa Maria" and forged in 1726, is important to the town's history because it was installed in the belfry of the Nassiping Church (also called the San Miguel Archangel church) when Nassiping was founded as a town on June 15, 1596, local records showed.

The areas covering Nassiping were later merged with Barangay Dummun and Gattaran town proper, and the former town was converted into a village of Gattaran.

Information from the Cagayan website said the Nassiping Church was where Cagayanos learned the art and craft of calligraphy from Spanish priests.

Police said residents on Sunday night reported that they heard the church bell ringing. The residents then heard the sound of a vehicle leaving the church compound.

The police set up teams to scour junk shops in this city, more than 60 km from Gattaran, as the thieves could sell them to junk collectors.

The police also asked priests and church workers in Cagayan parishes that keep centuries-old bells to stay on alert and safeguard the relics. *Estanislao Caldez with a report from Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Locust downs 2

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Two persons were hospitalized for poisoning after eating locusts. Edwin Diwatin, 18, a resident of St. Joseph Street in Lagao Village, bought fried locusts in Silway 8, Polomolok town, South Cotabato on Tuesday afternoon. At around 9:45 p.m., he was rushed to the General Santos City Hospital. Less than an hour later, a dizzy Edning Ogcan of Apopong Village, was admitted also due to locust poisoning. Fried locust has been a favorite delicacy of some residents here. Along the National Highway between here and nearby Polomolok in South Cotabato, locust dealers line up the streets. The business is so lucrative that a sack of live locusts now costs around P3,000.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Computers for madaris

MALAKING TULONG ITO SA PAG-AARAL KO!

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

COTABATO CITY—Pupils and students of a madrasah (Islamic school) here can now access the Internet and use web cameras after complying with the Basic Education Curriculum of the Department of Education. The Sharif Kabunsuan College Inc. on Tuesday was the first to receive the assistance package consisting of five computer units, two web cameras, a printer, local area network and Internet connection and manuals from the United States Agency for International Cooperation-Growth with Equity in Mindanao's Computer Literacy and Internet Connection Program.

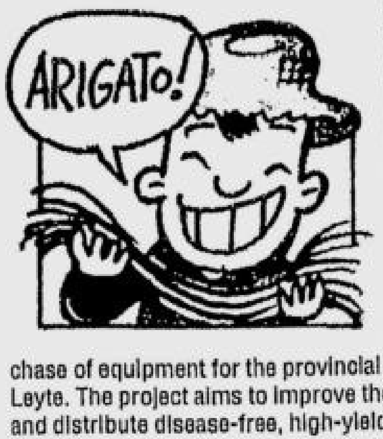
Rolando B. Pinsoy, PDI Mindanao Bureau

'Hot' lumber seized

LUCENA CITY—Quezon police and personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources foiled the transport of undocumented lumber in Real, Quezon on Friday evening. A police report said government authorities intercepted a van in Barangay Llavac, Real. The van yielded about 7.73 cubic meters of newly sawn red lauan. Police arrested the driver of the van identified as Sabdy B. Lagapan, a businessman from Sta. Cruz, Laguna. The confiscated lumber was turned over to the DENR, which has been implementing a total log ban in the province.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

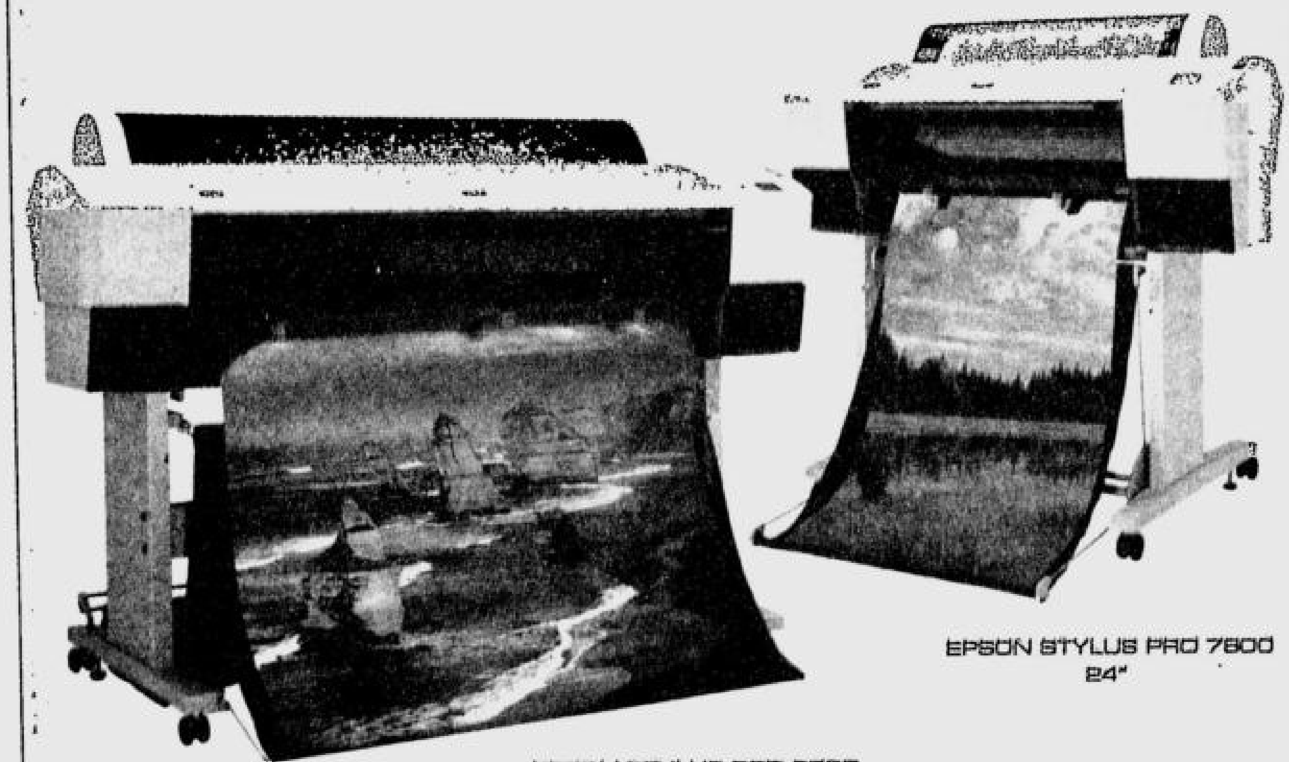
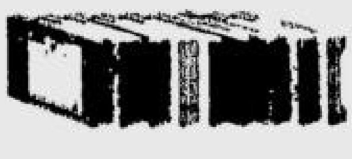
Abaca lab funded



MORE THAN 6,000 abaca farmers in 29 municipalities in Leyte are expected to benefit from the abaca rehabilitation and expansion project that the provincial government is undertaking through Japan's official development assistance, according to a news release from the Japanese Embassy. Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki and Leyte Gov. Carlos Jericho L. Petilla signed the grant contract for the project on Nov. 7. The fund, worth $70,350, will be used for the purchase of equipment for the provincial tissue culture laboratory in Palo, Leyte. The project aims to improve the capacity of the province to propagate and distribute disease-free, high-yielding abaca varieties to rehabilitate virus-affected areas and develop new plantations and increase farmers' incomes.

UP Law homecoming

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines' Law Alumni Association will hold its annual Grand Alumni Homecoming Night on Nov. 18, 6 p.m. at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. The UP Law '80 Foundation, this year's silver jubilarians, hosts this year's event. For inquiries, call Dang Teves at 8189836, Helen Bengil at 8972136.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Palace warns organizers they face sedition raps

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY warned organizers of the Citizens Congress for Truth and Accountability that they could be liable for a number of criminal offenses.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters that the CCTA hearings were being monitored for possible inciting to sedition. But Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez cited three other possible offenses: usurpation of public function, illegal assembly, and unlawful use of means of publication and unlawful utterances.

Gonzalez said the government was studying the matter "very, very carefully."

Malacañang had repeatedly described the CCTA as a "kangaroo court," and said it had no legal basis. It had also rejected the invitation of organizers to take part in the forum.

The National Bureau of Investigation has also started monitoring the CCTA proceedings, according to a well-placed source.

The source said charges of sedition would be filed against certain people, depending on the results of the investigation.

Gonzalez underscored the need for the government to collate evidence against the CCTA.

But Ermita said: "Let's just let them do their thing. Let them do what they want to do. If they cross the threshold of what to do and not to do, that's the time when we act."

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago warned the congress participants that they could be charged with inciting to sedition and held in contempt by the Supreme Court.

Santiago said that while the congress appeared to be an exercise of the right to free speech, the participants might run afoul of the law because of the pending case in the high court questioning the House's dismissal of the impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"They also have to be careful because they might run the risk of committing the crime of sedition if they incite other people to take up arms against the President, or prevent her from exercising her official functions, or if they instigate or inflict hate or revenge upon [her]," Santiago said.

She also said the CCTA was no more than a media gimmick that was after extra-constitutional results.

Senators Francis Pangilinan, Mar Roxas and Panfilo Lacson aired similar views.

But opposition Sen. Serge Osmeña said the CCTA undertaking was useful.

"Anything that will give information to the public is a plus, given that the administration is always stifling the truth. This will make our republic healthy because it helps the public make decisions, whether it's consumption decisions or other matters," Osmeña said, adding:

"It's a process of bringing out information. Nothing like that is ever useless; it could make a difference." *Christine O. Avendaño, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Margaux C. Ortiz*

2004 poll 'dirtiest' in Lanao del Sur, 'secret' witness claims

From page A1

and opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr., 75; the late Raul Roco, 12; Sen. Panfilo Lacson, one; and Bro. Eddie Villanueva, zero.

"How can the CoC show that all the other candidates had zero votes [when the precinct ER showed the other candidates with votes credited to them]?" he said, adding that Poona Bayabao was "one of the worst cases" of electoral fraud.

WITNESS at the Citizens Congress Segundo Tabayoyong testifies on Wednesday at UP Diliman, Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

"SECRET" WITNESS Hadji Dalidig, Namfrel chair of Lanao del Sur: My report was ignored by the Namfrel national office. JOAN BONDOC

Ignored report

Dalidig said he had submitted a comparative computation of the CoCs and ERs and a report of election irregularities in Lanao del Sur to the Namfrel national office.

"But [Namfrel chair] Jose Concepcion did nothing [about my report]. When I arrived here in Manila, I was shocked to hear [him] over the radio claiming that the elections in Lanao del Sur were 'clean' and 'orderly,' contrary to my findings," Dalidig said.

Asked if he personally knew Poe, Dalidig said he had only seen the late actor "in the movies."

As for Ms Arroyo, Daligdig said he had been introduced to and even talked with the President at length.

He said Ms Arroyo offered the nongovernment organization to which he belonged a chance "to participate in the peace process [in Mindanao]."

Second-generation fraud

Tabayoyong, a retired chief of the National Bureau of Investigation's Questioned Documents Division, presented his analysis of what he called second-generation fraud, or the creation of votes via prefabricated ERs.

"First-generation electoral fraud involves ballot-snatching and -switching.... Second-generation electoral fraud includes election returns," Tabayoyong said.

He said the 2004 polls marked "the first time" second-generation fraud was done in 40 years of elections in the country.

Tabayoyong presented his samples of pre-fabricated ERs and his analysis of the thousands of such documents submitted to him for expert perusal by opposition vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda.

He said the questioned returns were from the provinces of Cebu, Bohol, Iloilo, Pampanga, Negros Oriental, Ilocos Sur and Southern Leyte, among others.

"This physical evidence, more than a photograph, speaks a thousand words," Tabayoyong said of the ERs showing similar tally marks and tiny fingerprints instead of thumb marks, and the absence of such data as the number of voters, the precinct numbers, and the names of barangays.

"The election results were already done even before Election Day," Tabayoyong said.

Fertilizer funds

The other witnesses yesterday were former Solicitor General Frank Chavez, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chair Danilo Ramos, Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodolfo Plaza and retired IBM systems expert Jun Estrella.

Chavez presented Department of Budget and Management documents on the release of P728 million and P1.1 billion in fertilizer funds immediately before and even during the campaign period.

Based on the documents, Chavez claimed, the money never reached the farmers but were diverted to fund Ms Arroyo's campaign.

"The cases of plunder I filed with the Ombudsman... just lie there. That's why I'm here in this congress," he said.

Plaza corroborated Chavez's testimony, saying that even as his name had appeared as one of the proponents of projects connected with the fertilizer funds, his district received nothing from the allocation.

Ramos likewise said none of the farmers organizations benefited from the fertilizer and farm input allocations at the time of their release in February 2004.

"It was harvest at that time," Ramos said, citing the absence of a need for fertilizers that are usually applied during the planting season.

A case vs GMA

Capulong said the congress had so far been able to build up a case against the President.

"Scattered pieces of evidence are now falling into place. There is an emerging of the complete picture," he said at the University of the Philippines' College of Social Work and Community Development auditorium, site of yesterday's session.

Faced with media looking for new witnesses and evidence yet to be presented in other public forums, Capulong said more witnesses were calling the CCTA secretariat to be allowed to present their own testimony and evidence against Ms Arroyo.

"The proceedings have encouraged other potential witnesses to come out. Some are old witnesses, others not so old," he said with a laugh.

Open to scrutiny

He said the evidence that had been presented was open to scrutiny, and the witnesses, to cross examination.

He also said other parties were likewise welcome to present contrary evidence.

"We are confident that all the pieces of evidence would withstand all the tests," Capulong said.

The next session of the CCTA will be held on Tuesday at the University of Makati.

Malacañang taps McCann-Erickson for bird flu info drive

From page A1

ernment for some time, I have the impression that every time you write what government says or what government is trying to disseminate, some people think it is just propaganda because it is good for government. But yet when you handle the same situation through private media, somehow there is a tendency for it to be believed as though government is an agency that should not be believed."

Ermita does not see anything remiss about hiring McCann-Erickson. "I think that is one way of utilizing as many measures as you can to achieve an objective. Nothing can prevent government from tapping other agencies to boost the effectiveness of our reach," Ermita said.

McCann offer for free

Remonde defended his decision to get McCann-Erickson.

"McCann is the biggest and most prestigious advertising agency in the Philippines. There was no bidding because it is pro bono. As former head of the KBP (the Philippine broadcasters association) and the AdBoard, I have been tapping my private contacts for public service for free," said Remonde.

"As a multinational, McCann is concerned about bird flu in the Asia Pacific region. This is an ideal case of private sector and government collaboration for a public cause," Remonde said.

Remonde's appointment as vice chair of the President's Bird Flu watch second only to Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban has raised some eyebrows.

In the government's response to the SARS virus, the President rightfully named the health secretary to head the government's efforts and did not find any need to appoint a media expert full- time.

The anti-bird flu campaign has reportedly been budgeted at over P100 million with the funds coming from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Department of Health. Malacañang did not say how much would be spent for the information campaign and how much for the antibiotic.

Landbank aid

Also yesterday, the Landbank of the Philippines said it had extended some P1.5 billion for the country's bird flu prevention program.

The state-owned bank will provide funds for its clients engaged in the poultry industry and other allied industries, Landbank acting president and CEO Gilda E. Pico said

Pico said Landbank would also coordinate with the various government agencies for the implementation of the Avian Flu Preparedness Plan of the national government.

"As part of the communication campaign, Landbank will integrate the avian flu preparedness plan in its briefing activities with bank clients who are in the poultry and allied industries," she said.

Stringent measures

She noted that the Landbank will also adopt very stringent measures in evaluating projects that involve bird importation in order to prevent the possible contamination of the local poultry farms.

In the event of an outbreak, Pico said Landbank will provide debt relief assistance to clients in the form of loan restructuring as well as refinancing of their other livelihood projects.

She noted that Landbank would likewise require its clients to properly observe biosecurity measures including the installation of farm gates, shower rooms, foot baths, fumigation boxes to keep stray animals.

There must also be proper rest period and disinfection of flocks and no mixing of poultry and swine in the same holding facility, the corresponding recording of all movements to and from the facility. *With a report from Christine Gaylican*

Sandigan: Hold 50th Ateneo HS '55 reunion in Erap estate

From page A1

of 1955 at the sprawling rest house and detention center of former President Joseph Estrada in Tanay, Rizal?

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio yesterday made this suggestion to the former classmates of Estrada, 69, who is facing plunder and perjury charges.

At a press conference, Villa-Ignacio expressed the prosecution's opposition to a defense motion seeking the court's permission to allow Estrada to attend the 50th year celebration of his high school batch.

More meaningful

The celebration will be highlighted by a concert at the Meralco Theater on Tuesday.

"Their celebration would be more meaningful at the Tanay resort," Villa-Ignacio said, adding that members of Class 1955 would find Estrada's rest house "very interesting and relaxing."

"They have ducks and fish to feed and could even go swimming there," he said.

Aside from inconveniencing some 200 police and military personnel should the Sandiganbayan grant the motion, Estrada's trip to the Meralco Theater would cost the government P500,000, the special prosecutor said.

Precedent

"That is too much for someone who would just watch a concert. It would also set a precedent for inmates like former House of Representatives member Romeo Jalosjos who may also want to attend a similar affair," Villa-Ignacio said.

He said Rene Saguisag, a lawyer of Estrada's, should not insist on having the former President attend the concert because it will only burden the taxpayer.

He noted that Saguisag was known to be frugal when it came to spending public funds.

Saguisag, who filed the motion, said that for humanitarian reasons, the court should grant Estrada's request and allow him to attend the rare occasion.

"This is an affair that comes only once every 50 years," Saguisag said in the motion. "(I)n the memory of many people, [high school] represents the best in their lives, crowded with happy memories, when bonding and friendships that last a lifetime are formed."

He said that Estrada's "years continue to dwindle to a precious few."

Tony Lopa appears before court

Five of Estrada's Ateneo high school classmates led by class president Tony Lopa appeared before the anti-graft court's special division to support Saguisag's motion.

Lopa told the justices of the special division that Estrada's attendance at the golden jubilee celebration was important because the former President was not an ordinary class member.

"If he (Estrada) were not the President, maybe his presence is not that important for every class member," Lopa said.

Estrada, expelled in his sophomore year for fighting with an American student who had bullied a classmate, was not invited to Ateneo homecoming festivities until 1992 when he was elected Vice President.

Class to shoulder expenses

Lopa said the class was willing to shoulder the expenses entailed by Estrada's attendance.

Lopa had been president of the Ateneo Alumni Association in 1985. During Estrada's term, he was appointed president of the Philippine National Oil Co. and represented the country in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Advisory Council.

The special division is expected to rule on Saguisag's motion this week.

The Ateneo homecoming calendar did not reflect the Nov. 15 concert at the Meralco Theater, but the Ateneo University's alumni relations director said it was common for classes to organize their own events, which are separate from school-sponsored activities.

Director Jun Dalandan said posters for the concert had already been spotted all over the Ateneo campus and other areas of Metro Manila. Among the performers at the concert are singers Pilita Corrales, Jaya and Verni Varga.

Prominent members

Other prominent members of the class include:

- Former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura
- Makati City Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino
- Former Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon Jr.
- Public relations guru Aurelio "Reli" German
- Former Press Secretary Horacio "Ducky" Paredes
- Former Energy Secretary Mario Tiaoqui
- Former Customs Commissioner Renato Ampil
- Former Monetary Board Member Antonino Alindogan
- Former Labor Undersecretary Felicisimo Joson
- Former Ambassador to Beijing Romualdo Ong
- Former Ambassador to the Hague Eloy Bello III
- Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) director Mike Barretto
- Leonardo Albar, Oscar Sevilla and Arturo Parcero of the BIR*
- The late realtor Salvador Mauricio "Morris" Carpo and late sportsmen Gregorio Reyes and Ed Ocampo
- The late Roman Cruz Jr., formerly with Manila Hotel and GSIS
- Businessmen Jimmy Tang Sr., Godofredo Rodriguez, Jesus Tambunting and Jose Gatchalian
- Roger Olivarez, brother of INQUIRER columnist Belinda Olivarez Cunanan
- Lawyers Fernando Chua, Renato Francisco and Domingo Ordoveza
- Retired Air Force Gen. Rogelio Asuncion
- Dr. Arturo Ludan
- Msgr. Augusto Pedrosa
- Architect Tony Evangelista

Honorary members include former SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo, lawyer Adolfo Azcuna, banker Armand Braun, and Pagcor director Frank Puzon. *With research by Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research*

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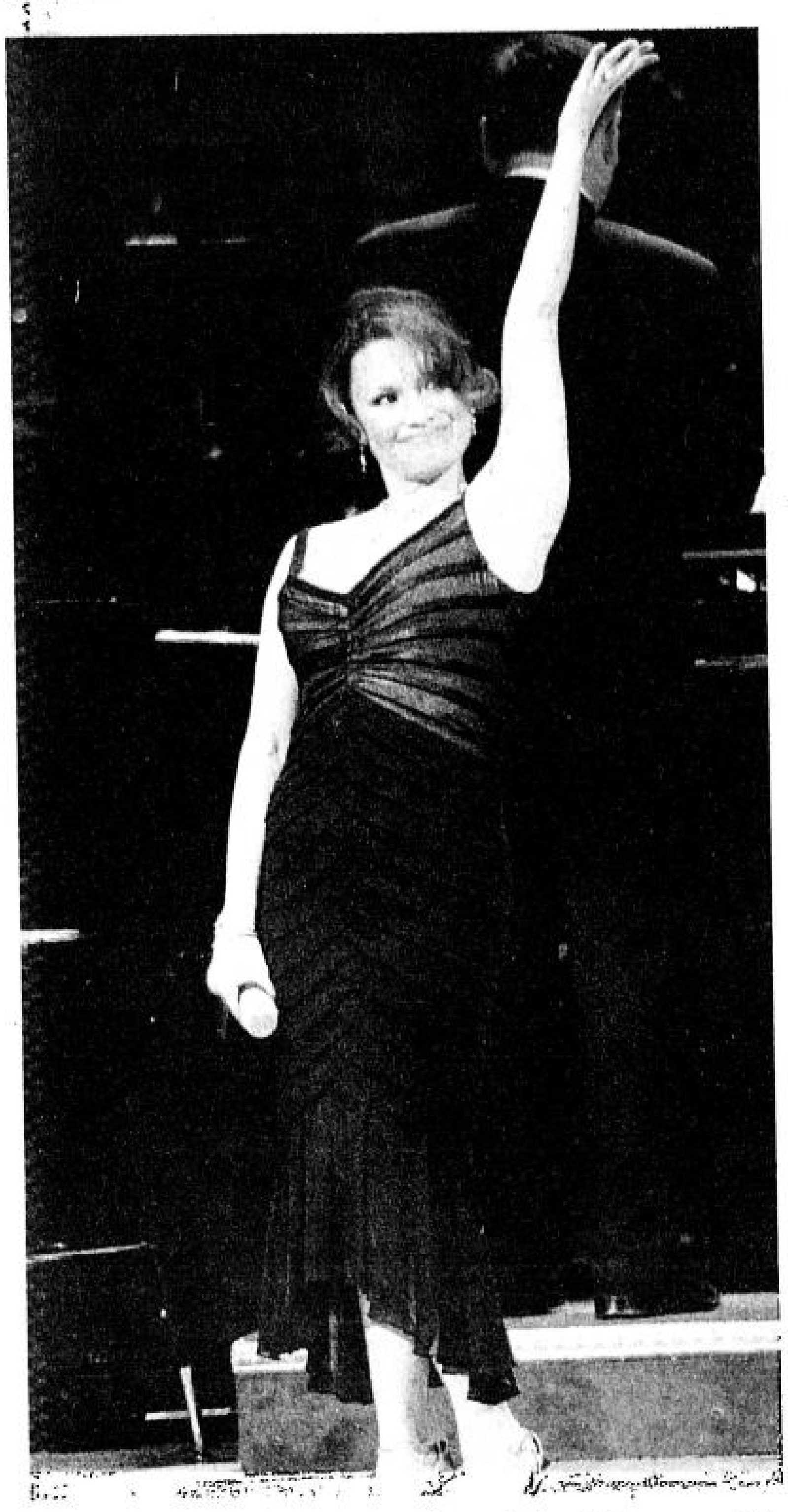


TAKE A BOW: Actress, singer, recording artist Lea Salonga was a hit at her debut concert at Carnegie for the benefit of Diverse City Theatre Company, a groundbreaking theatre group in New York that promotes diversity in the theatre. VICTOR "KEATS" LONDON

Standing ovations for Lea, showstopper at Carnegie Hall

From page A1

balconies filled to capacity. Wearing a tuxedo pantsuit, Lea put her hands on her chest and said, "I am so glad that all of you are here." Exclaiming that this was like having "an out-of-body experience," she added, "I've sung all over the world but nothing quite prepared me for this."

She was probably overwhelmed initially, resulting in a rather tentative opening number, "Another 100 People." But in her second number, Johnny Mercer's "When October Goes," she had the audience in the palm of her hand.

Master conductor, director

The lush 28-piece orchestra, animatedly conducted by music director Kevin Stites (on his off night from the musical version of "The Color Purple"), beautifully accompanied Lea in one of the many standards that she would sing which showcased her welcome growth as a musical artist. She also had the privilege of being directed in the show by Richard Jay-Alexander, who has helmed concerts by such names as Barbra Streisand, Bette Midler and Bernadette Peters.

Even when Lea switched to a young actress' tale of woe with her acting teacher in "Nothing," she was refreshingly spirited, playfully replacing the key lyrics of this song from "A Chorus Line" to suit her own thespic journey.

Admiring smiles

The American musicians, an experienced, masterful lot, smiled in admiration at the musical dynamo in front of them. I often glimpsed the musicians occasionally looking at Lea, their faces indicating admiration.

The Tony award-winning performer actually knelt on the stage floor when her first guest, Andrea McArdle (Broadway's original Annie), joined her in a duet of—what else—"Tomorrow." "She became my God," quipped Lea of Andrea who became her inspiration when she listened to the original "Annie" cast soundtrack recording at the age of eight. Of course, the two Annies sang "Tomorrow" from the perspective of two wiser, more experienced stage women. Lea then exited the stage for Andrea's solo, "Everybody Says Don't."

Pop songs

Even when Lea sang simple pop songs such as the Carpenters' "We've Only Just Begun" and "You," she brought out the gem in these pieces. At one point in these songs, she turned and addressed the romantic lyrics to her husband Robert Chien, who was in the audience.

But no other pop song in Lea's very challenging repertoire affected me more than "True Colors." Who knew that there was passion and fury in this Phil Collins Top 40 number?

Lea completely surprised me by coaxing the high emotions in this seemingly innocuous song. She turned it into a supremely involving inspirational anthem. I have to be man enough to admit that with the passionate way Lea sang this radio staple, she moved me, um, to tears. I tried my darndest best to discreetly wipe away the tears.

Jazzed up

With her slightly jazzed up renditions of the classic standards "Someone To Watch Over Me" (where she was exquisitely accompanied only by a guitarist) and "It Had To Be You" (rhythm section only), Lea showed the path that she is naturally progressing toward. She proved that she has the chops to sing standards and jazz if someday she decides to take this path.

In "Married," Lea, accompanied only by a pianist, winked at Robert—I think we are all fortunate that the singer is so obviously in love—it definitely helped in her admirably grown-up, passionate interpretation of numbers.

Filipino number

Lea introduced the Filipino number in the show by saying, "The Philippines is very much a large part of who I am." Then she acknowledged the co-composer of "Hahanapin Ko," her wedding godfather Jose Mari Chan, who was in the audience. It was a treat for the Filipinos in the crowd to hear live inside the grand space of the Carnegie this combination—Jose Mari's music, Jimmy Santiago's Filipino lyrics of longing, Lea's dulcet tones and Gerard's arrangements (a departure from the song's kind of cloying, disco-fied original incarnation). The Pinoy spectators in the audience roared with approval.

Standing ovation

When Lea and her other female guest, Liz Callaway (the original Ellen in "Miss Saigon") sang the duet "I Still Believe," 14 years since they originally sang it together on Broadway, their glorious blending of voices elicited the evening's first standing ovation, It was a fantastic melding of two of the finest voices in musical theater today. Lea was indeed generous and confident of her own talents to share the stage with a knockout talent like Liz who, in her solo number, eclipsed Patti LuPone's signature version of "Meadowlark."

Showstopper

Displaying the humorous bent she displayed throughout the evening, Lea introduced her "Miss Saigon" showstopper, "I'd Give My Life For You," with funny anecdotes about being "17, conservative and Catholic" when she took on the career-making role of Kim in London. Lea ended Act One with her much more impassioned version now of "I'd Give My …"

Act Two began with Lea's two signature numbers from her "Flower Drum Song" revival, "I Enjoy Being a Girl" and "Love, Look Away" (she'll get career-lasting credit for bringing out the beauty of this sad ballad), and "Reflection" from her Disney/"Mulan" phase.

Lea shone in her heartfelt rendition of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "I Don't Know How To Love Him." Now that Lea is a woman with a capital W, a role as Mary Magdalene in a "Jesus Christ Superstar" revival should be in her future.

Breathtaking

The artist's breathtaking take of "People" and "Where is Love/As Long As He Needs Me" again displayed her increasing interest in and mastery of the standards genre.

No run-through of her repertoire would be complete without her "Le Miz" crowd-pleaser, "On My Own," of course. Guest Paolo Montalban, making the most of his night off as Prince in a current "Cinderella" production, sang "A Little Fall of Rain," also from "Le Miz," with his host. Paolo's solo number was "The Very Thought of You."

Sax solo

Lea clinched her mastery of standards with a scintillating "My One and Only Love," where a beautiful sax solo reverberating through Carnegie's Isaac Stern Auditorium was one of the night's pleasures. The Philippines' pride next tackled two songs from "Wicked," the new hit musical she's aspiring to appear in someday. She aced the first one, "Popular," and had fun with the called-for exaggerated delivery of some of the lyrics.

Before she dared to tackle "Defying Gravity," a challenging piece that does indeed demand difficult musical lifts, Lea made the sign of the cross. She may no longer be 17 and conservative but she is still Catholic. We gave Lea high marks for having the guts to sing this dazzling number from "Wicked."

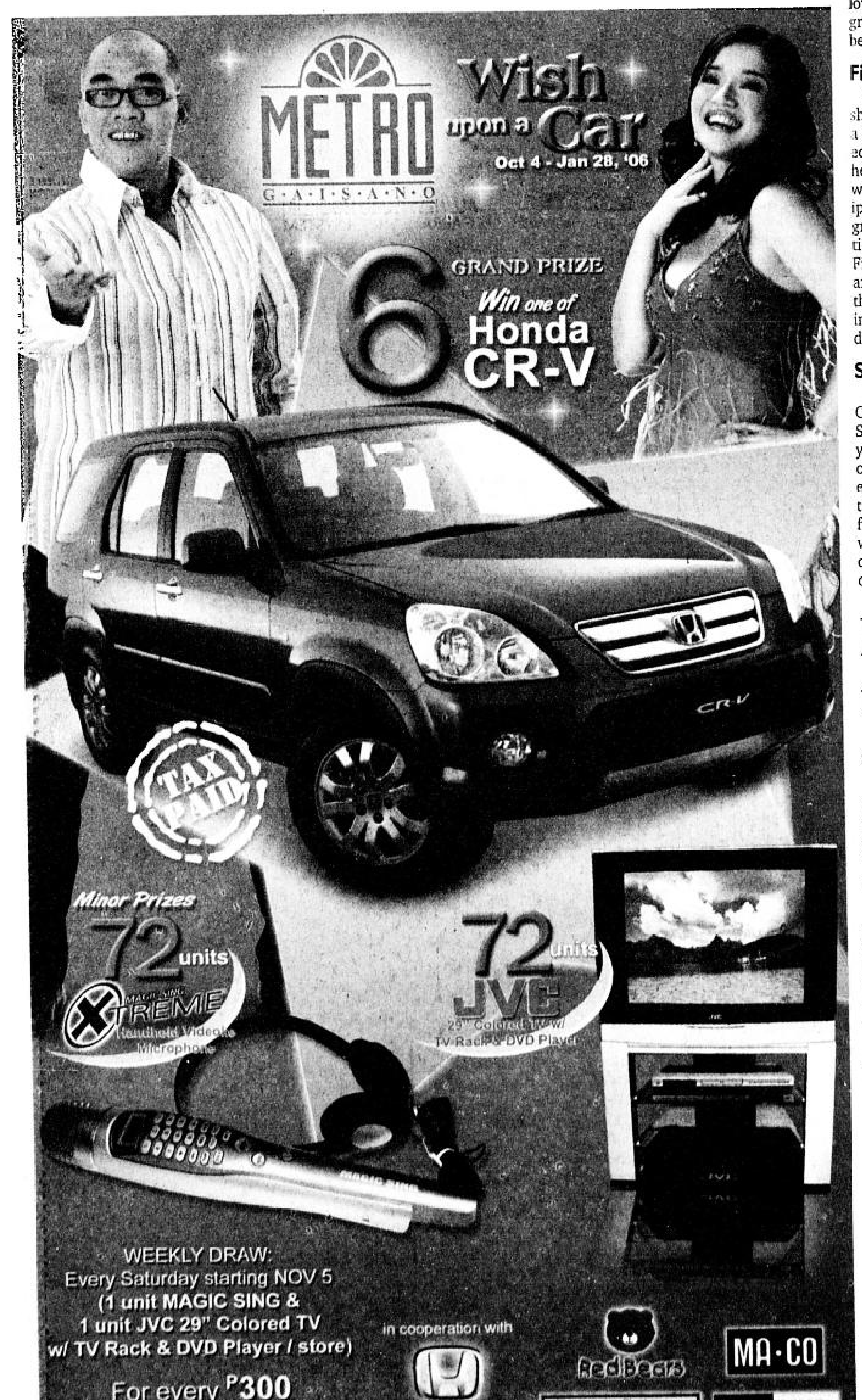
Encores

For her encore, Lea sang "I Honestly Love You," a refreshingly low-key piece with just the piano and strings, and again she proved how adept she has become in turning a maudlin ballad into a quietly stirring number.

When she exited the stage one more time, the audience wanted more so she came back with "A Whole New World." Lea sang her Disney standard with a male volunteer from the audience who knew the lyrics.

The last encore song's title is appropriate. With the growing musical maturity she displayed all evening, a whole new world awaits Lea indeed.

E-mail the writer at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.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Experts: 12% expanded VAT to unleash bull run, P52:$1

From page A1

rent performance, it was inevitable that Ms Arroyo would increase the tax rate. The tax is aimed at reducing the government's massive budget deficit.

'Flood of funds'

At the stock market, raising the VAT to 12 percent would jack up the Phisix, the key Philippine stock market barometer, by at least 25 percent to the 2,600 level or back to the bourse's peak in 1999, according to former Philippine Stock Exchange chair Wilson Sy.

"The move will unleash a flood of funds from portfolio managers hungry for a recovery play in the region. Investors will look at the Philippines in a different light," Sy said.

Largely because of the implementation of the expanded VAT on Nov. 1, Philippine stocks are now back on portfolio managers' radar screen after six years, according to Sy.

The stock market yesterday hit its highest level in eight months because of heavy foreign buying. *(See story on Page B1.)*

The imposition of the VAT on fuel and power and the increase in corporate income tax from 32 percent to 35 percent have buoyed up Swiss banking giant UBS' outlook on the Philippines.

It projects the peso to hit 54 by the end of the year and 53 by the end of the next. It also expects interest rates on Philippine foreign debt to drop nearly 2 percentage points.

Long ride on bull's back

The market euphoria could extend beyond three months, according to Veloso.

"After three months, investors would know by then whether the 12 percent VAT has translated to higher revenue collections. If it has, then the Philippines will be up for a very, very long ride on the back of the bulls."

Veloso said the market's exuberance could peak in the first full year of implementation of the 12 percent VAT when investors would have confirmed whether the tax was indeed the panacea for the government's chronic budget deficit.

"We expect a significant change in the market outlook, an inevitable upgrade in the country's credit rating," he said.

Positive impact

In Malacañang, officials reinforced the investors' belief that the VAT rate would be raised to 12 percent by January as they denied rumors that Ms Arroyo was even considering to defer such action.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Malacañang was cognizant of the positive impact of the expanded VAT's implementation on the peso, which has become the latest darling in the regional currencies market.

"It (the VAT) is the reason why our peso is stable," he said.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila said the President's economic team shared the business community's sentiment that "the implementation of the expanded VAT in its entirety is necessary so that we can realize the full potential revenue impact and likewise maintain our credibility in the international market."

He said the tax was "a necessary burden that will in due time address the never ending headache of debt service."

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Displaced Pasig vendors go to court

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

VENDORS CLAIMING TO HAVE RIGHTS OVER a market in Pasig City are seeking the courts' support in their fight.

In a motion filed with two Pasig Regional Trial Courts days after their stalls were demolished, the vendors asked to be allowed to return to the property.

The motion will be heard today and tomorrow.

Some 50 vendors and the family of former Agriculture Sec. Arthur Yap, who bought the property in 1997, are both claiming rights to the market in Barangay Palatiw.

Violence erupted last week when stalls reportedly owned by vendors were demolished.

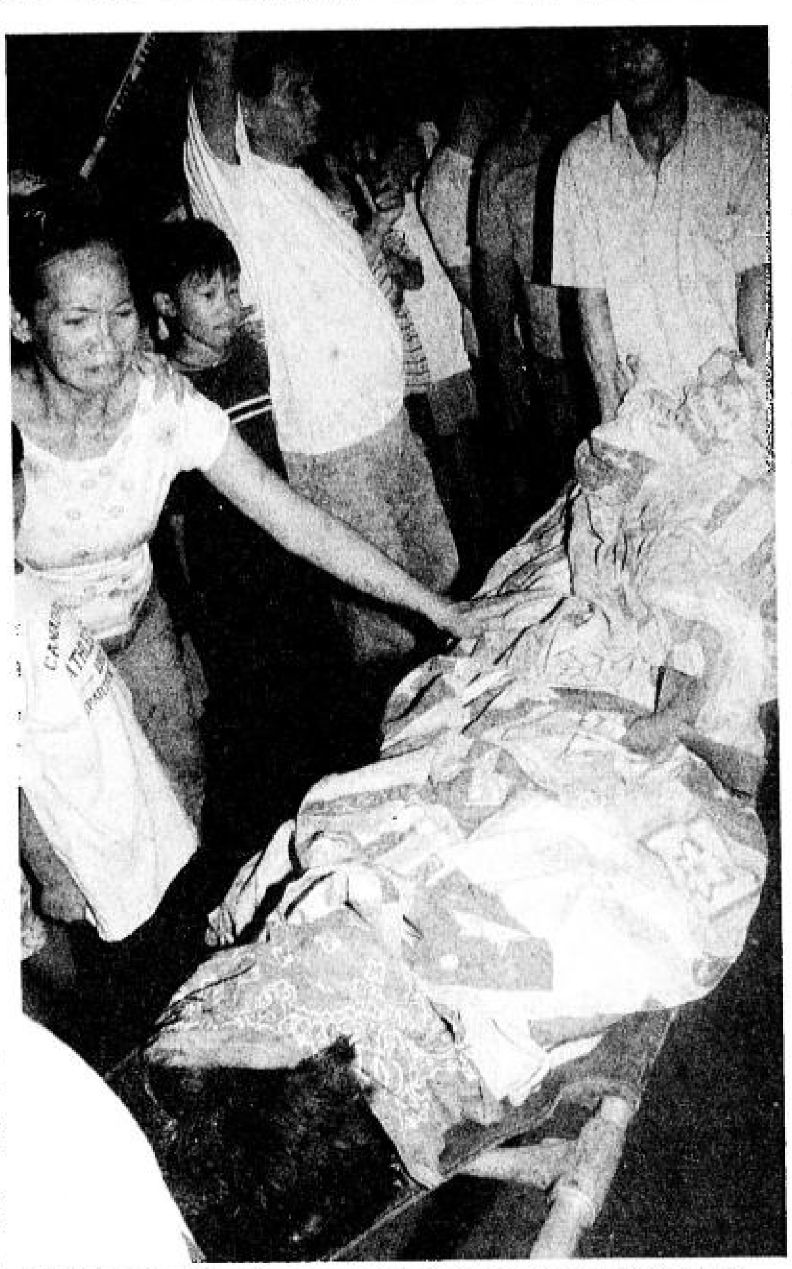
In his motion, Jose Capco Jr., the vendors' lawyer, asked for the rebuilding of the demolished stalls "at the expense of the defendants."

He also asked the courts to order the removal of fences around the market and security guards watching over the property.

Lawyers of DHY Realty and Development, owned by Yap's father Domingo, said earlier they respected the rights of legitimate vendors and that only illegal stalls were demolished.

Fruit sellers Gertrudes Marquez and her husband not only lost their means of livelihood but also the small house they built in the property.

Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio, however, chose to keep mum on the subject.



THE BODY of Aljon Martinez, suspected member of a kidnap-for-ranson group, is brought out of a Las Piñas house after he was shot by police.

ERIK ARAZAS

Suspected KFR member shot dead

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TO MANY, HE WAS THE TRUSTY ATTENDANT at a fighting cock farm owned by a city councilor. But police said he was a plain bandit.

The end came for Aljon Martinez, the seventh in the list of most wanted kidnap-for-ransom (KFR) members with a P500,000 bounty on his head, when he was killed after a gun battle with the police Tuesday night in Las Piñas City.

The top two in the most wanted list are brothers Rolando and Harold Fajardo, with a P1 million bounty each on their heads.

Armed with an arrest warrant, the Police Anti-Crime Emergency and Response team (Pacer) and men from the Philippine National Police Region 4 Intelligence Office led by police chief inspector Simnar Gran swooped down on a house at Balagtas St., Pamplona Uno to apprehend Martinez.

But the suspect resisted arrest and fired at the police, leading the law enforcers to retaliate, said police chief inspector Ferjen Torred, criminal investigation department chief of Las Piñas City.

Martinez, who had been under surveillance for two weeks, was gunned down near the place where he worked, said Torred. The suspect had been the caretaker in the farm where Las Piñas City Councilor Boy Salvador raised fighting cocks on Balagtas Street since February last year.

Martinez died of multiple gunshot wounds, on his left side, said case investigator P03 Albert Arevalo.

Salvador said he had no inkling that the police were after his caretaker. "There were no signs to indicate that he was a kidnapper," he said. The suspect was "a very quiet and patient man," he added. The councilor said that two weeks ago, the suspect even helped in the processing of his driver's license.

Martinez did not project the image of a criminal, Salvador said, noting that his caretaker lived a simple life. "He would come to work in plain shirts and pants. Even the cigarette he smoked came from us," he added. Martinez, a resident of Dasmariñas, Cavite, would sleep in a small nipa hut in the farm after his work was done, Salvador said.

When the councilor heard about the shooting incident just a stone's throw away from his house, he immediately went to the scene to find out who was involved. "But it was only when I got there that I realized that it was him (Martinez) who was killed," Salvador said. He saw a gun beside Martinez's body, he recounted.

"As far as his stay here for two years is concerned, I couldn't recall seeing him with a gun. He stayed in an nipa hut, which was not locked and where anyone could see his belongings."

Meanwhile, police reports said that a .45 caliber pistol, allegedly belonging to Martinez, and assorted spent shells of different guns were retrieved from the crime scene.

Red Cross wants bird flu hotline

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED Cross (PNRC) wants a bird flu hotline set up to help government agencies prevent the outbreak of the dreaded disease in the country.

PNRC chair Senator Richard Gordon said that through a hotline, the public could phone in any information they might have that could help the fight against avian flu.

"Through a hotline, we can ask the public to report sightings of suspicious bird deaths and high incidence of flu most especially in areas near markets, poultry, cockpits, pet shops and bird sanctuaries as well as ports where birds are being boarded," said Gordon. The Bird Flu Hotline would help the Department of Health, Department of Agriculture and PNRC, he added.

Gordon also proposed the registration of all bird handlers and owners. He said any bird handler who caught the flu should report his or her condition to authorities.

Meanwhile, Valenzuela City has created an Anti-Asian Influenza Task Force. "The appearance of over a hundred species of migratory birds in various sanctuaries puts us at higher risk," said Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian. The birds are found in barangay Malanday, particularly the marshy area near Villa Liwayway Subdivision and sitio Lingahan.

As part of the preventive measures, the mayor said that except for dressed chicken, the selling of live birds and fowls in the city was prohibited. *With Nancy C. Carvajal*

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METROBRIEFS

Early Christmas

CHRISTMAS comes a few weeks in advance for employees of Quezon City, Mandaluyong City and Navotas. In Quezon City, employees will get their yearend bonus plus a cash gift of P2,500 according to Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco, on the other hand, said P3.9 million had been set aside for 1,432 local government employees, both regular and casual. A cash gift will also be given in December, said Tiangco. On the other hand, the yearend bonus for Mandaluyong City Hall employees is scheduled for release on Nov. 15, while cash gifts will be given December 5, said Mayor Neptali Gonzales II. The productivity pay for employees at P2,000 each was released the other day. The city is also gearing up for the annual gift-giving event for 40,000 city residents on Dec. 22. *DJ Yap and Nancy C. Carvajal*

YEHEY ! MASAYA ANG PASKO !

Philpost fetes top workers

TEN employees of the Philippine Postal Corporation were chosen outstanding postal workers and were honored in time for the celebration of its 107th founding anniversary yesterday. The awarding was led by Postmaster General Dario C. Rama. The awardees are: Miguel T. Ngalot, CAR, Postman I; Carlos L. Mendoza, Region IV, Postman II; Teresita C. Gaviola, NCR, Postal Teller; Norberto D. Labar Jr., Region VI, Driver/Courier/Mechanic; Marilyn G. Gotas, Region XI, Non-Supervisory position in the operations area; Monina G. Mena, NCR, Non-Supervisory position in an Admn. Area; Elsa P. Pameroyan, Revion VI, mail operations supervisor; Philmer Frendy C. Gerona, Region XI, Supervisor in an Administrative area; Nellie C. Cruz, Region IV, Postmaster; Datu Norodin P. Sapal Sr., Region XII, Postal Inspector.

Subic complex no longer crime-free

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

JUST BECAUSE SIX US MArines were involved in the alleged rape of a 22-year-old Filipina is no reason to scrap the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA). The VFA allows US troops to conduct joint military exercises with Filipino soldiers in the country.

Although both the Philippine and US governments would disown it, US troops have helped in the capture of some notorious Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Rape is despicable no matter who commits it, whether Filipino or foreigner. It just so happened that American servicemen were involved. By all means, let's punish the Americans to the full extent of the law if they are found guilty. They should be sent to jail for life or executed by lethal injection.

But we should not condemn the VFA just because a few horny American servicemen committed a crime on Philippine soil.

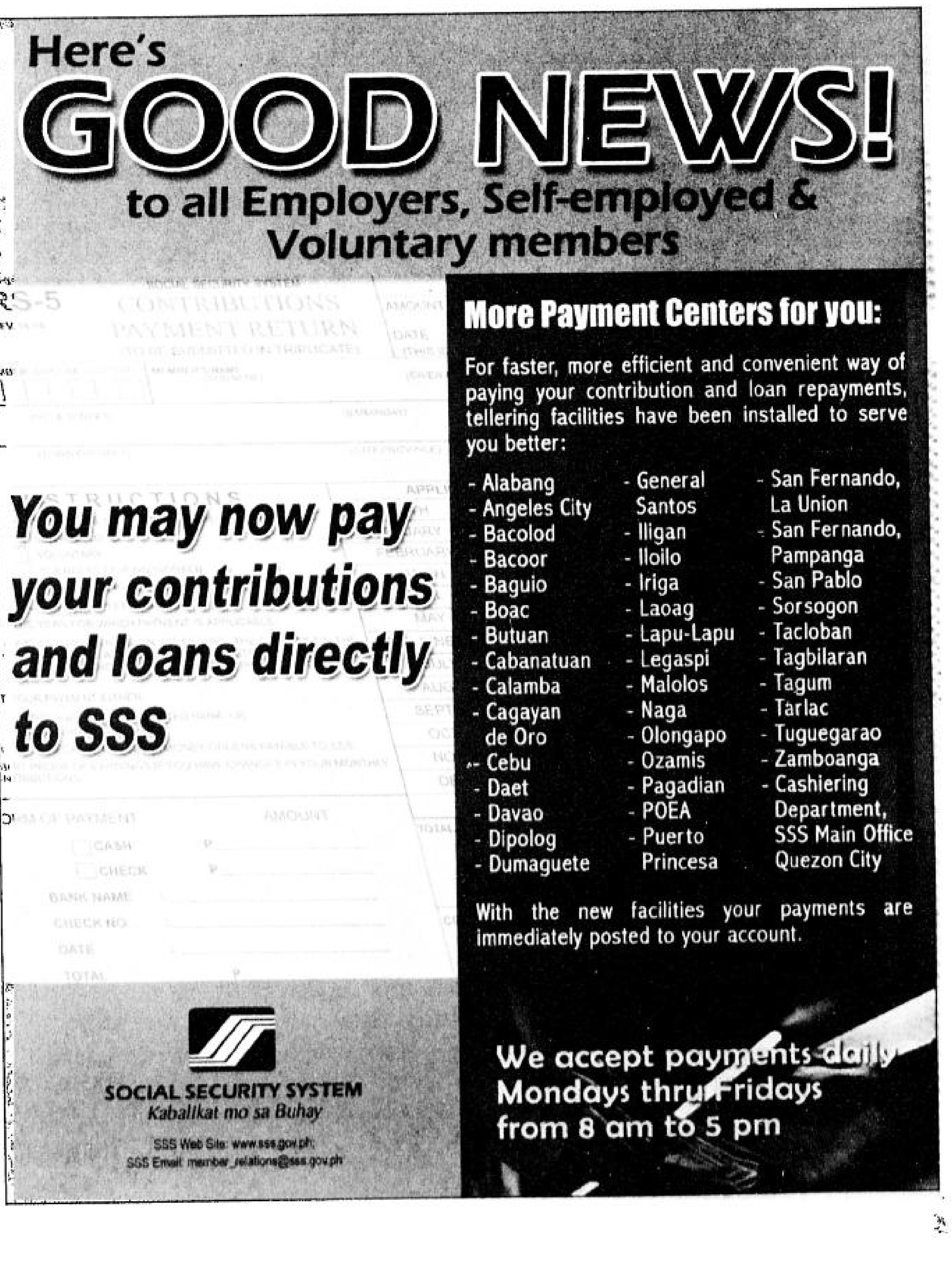
* * *

The alleged rape was committed inside the Subic Bay complex, a former US naval base. Where were the Subic Bay policemen at the time? Gone are the days when policemen at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) were the best in the country. This was during the time of Sen. Dick Gordon who was SBMA chair in the years after the Americans left Subic Bay.

I was a witness to the efficiency of the SBMA police—from the gate guards, traffic cops, harbor patrol, investigative arm, regular patrols to the forest rangers. The SBMA law enforcers during Gordon's time were so efficient crime was practically non-existent in the SBMA complex. Police efficiency extended for a while during the first two years of Felicito Payumo's administration, but began to deteriorate later. But now, the SBMA complex has become just like any other place in the country. Criminals are having a good time at SBMA.

Let's hear it from an SBMA resident: "The gate guards can now be bribed. The traffic cops pull you over for any infraction, and cite your violation to solicit bribes. The harbor patrol cops allow illegal fishermen for a part of their catch. Houses are regularly broken into. In the past two weeks alone, five restaurants have been hit."

The police forces are led by retired colonels—Col. Calunsag of the law enforcement department, and Col. Palabrica of the intelligence and investigation office. They should resign, and if they continue to cling to their posts they should be booted out.



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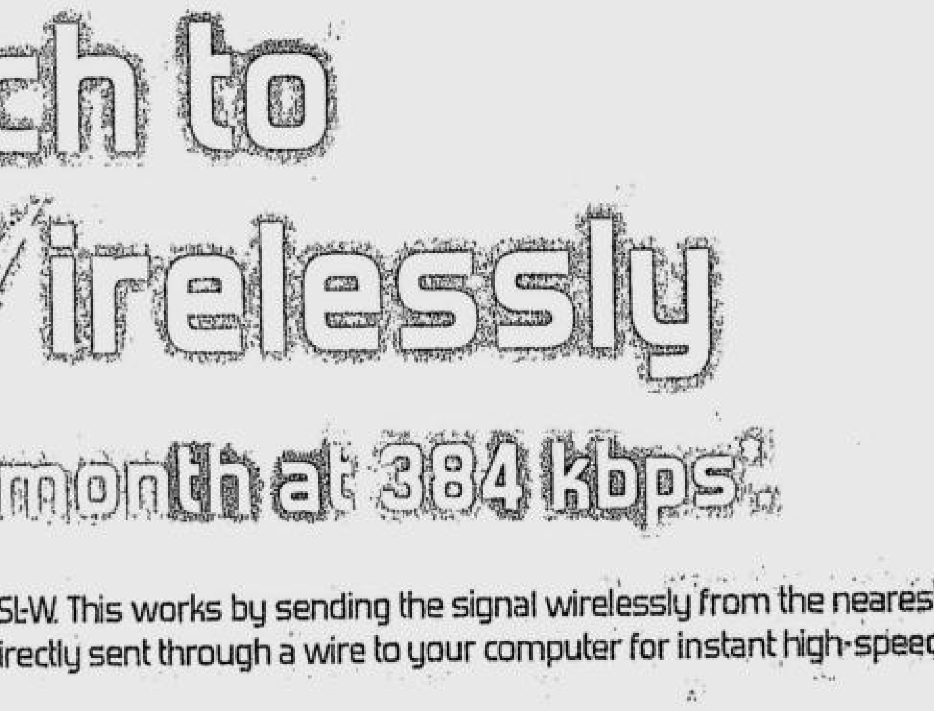

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SPORTS TV Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA—Mavs vs Sixers; 8 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports —Don't expect Dallas to get any brotherly love from Philly.
GOLF: Samsung World Championship; 8 a.m. (r); ESPN—See Annika dominate another event.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Realtors snap 5-game slump

By June Navarro

DESPERATE for a win, Sta. Lucia found a savior in Alex Cabagnot, who helped the Realtors turn back San Miguel Beer, 85-82, and snap a five-game losing streak last night in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Cabagnot knocked in a three-pointer with 29 seconds left and the Realtors survived the Beermen's final onslaught anchored on Kwan Johnson to notch their third win in nine games.

"It's very seldom for a rookie to have a license similar to what I've been giving to Alex (Cabagnot)," said Sta. Lucia Realty coach Alfrancis Chua. "He's on and off but I have faith in him. I know he's capable of hitting those big shots."

Since his 16-point explosion against Barangay Ginebra a month ago, Cabagnot has struggled with his offense and was even scoreless when Mark Caguioa got back at him during their rematch.

Cabagnot made sure to bounce back this time.

"I'm still working on being aggressive but right now, I feel relieved that the ball finally bounced for us," said Cabagnot after tossing in 10 points on top of five assists and five steals.

Johnson, who replaced Rico Hill, missed the chance to send the game into extra time as the former University of New Orleans standout's drive fell short of knotting the count at 84.

Johnson's miss with 16.6 ticks remaining gave Marlou Aquino a sigh of relief after the Sta. Lucia slotman flubbed three free throws that could have earlier put the outcome beyond doubt.

Nevertheless, the 6-foot-9 Aquino poured in his best effort so far in the season by finishing with a conference-high 23 points and four blocks, figures that netted praises from Chua.

"This is the only game that I prayed for every shot and free throw," the long-haired mentor said. "Marlou missed those free throws but his game was outstanding."

Despite getting 20 points and nine rebounds from Omar Weaver, the Realtors are contemplating on replacing him with De-Wayne Richardson, a 6-foot-5 forward from Fairmont State in the US NCAA Division 2.

Danny Ildefonso had 18 points, Olsen Racela and Danny Seigle chipped in 16 while Johnson added 15 and 11 boards for the Beermen, who absorbed their sixth defeat in seven games.

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:40 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Air21
7:25 p.m.—Red Bull Barako vs Ginebra

The scores:

First Game

STA. LUCIA 85—Aquino 23, Weaver 20, Cabagnot 10, Espino 8, Calimag 6, Omolon 6, Cuan 4, Tolomia 4, Duremdes 4, Catli 0, Sta. Maria 0.

SAN MIGUEL 82—Ildefonso 18, Racela 16, Seigle 16, Johnson 15, Belasco 11, Peña 5, Calagulo 1, Villoria 0, Hontiveros 0.

Quarters: 18-20, 34-47, 63-67, 85-82

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Donn, 10 years ago

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Cage scrapping up in Bangkok council meeting

By Francis Ochoa

PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (POC) president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco will fly to Thailand today bearing the sad news that hurts the country most.

There will be no basketball, the Filipinos' pride and joy in the Southeast Asian Games, in the 23rd edition the country will stage Nov. 27-Dec. 5.

Shackled by a suspension from the international basketball federation (Fiba), Cojuangco will formally inform the SEA Games Federation Council he heads of this development in a meeting tomorrow.

The decision was earlier transmitted to the Fiba last Nov. 7 by POC chair Robert Aventajado.

In a statement, the POC said it is "fully aware of the repercussions of its action with regards to the issues of hosting and participating in the basketball event" of the SEAG.

The POC had tried to keep basketball, the most anticipated event of the Games, in the calendar of sports, but its ongoing battle with the Basketball Association of the Philippines doomed its staging in the biennial meet.

The scrapping of the event was in accordance with an International Olympic Committee rule that prohibits a country "not duly authorized by the international federation governing the sport" from participating in any of its international meets.

Also, the SEA Games Federation rules state that officials of sports to be played in the multi-sport event should be appointed by the "appropriate national federation of the host country."

Because the POC has suspended the BAP and the Fiba has refused to accept another body organized with the blessing of the POC, there is no recognized national federation of the sport right now.

BAP lawyer sees hope for SEA Games caging

DESPITE THE BLEAK SCENARIO, all is not lost for Philippine basketball.

The Fiba (world basketball federation) ban on the Philippines can still be lifted before the opening of the Southeast Asian Games on Nov. 27 and basketball can still be held during the nine-day competition ending Dec. 5.

The optimistic view came yesterday from lawyer Carlos "Bonito" Alentajan, BAP legal counsel, who said he is confident that the case filed by the Basketball Association of the Philippines against the Philippine Olympic Committee for illegal expulsion will be upheld and force the POC to reinstate the BAP.

The Fiba had earlier suspended the country from competing and organizing basketball tournaments after the POC general assembly ousted the BAP from the local Olympic body.

The BAP has filed a petition for mandamus with application for preliminary mandatory injunction to force the POC to comply with the law and the POC charter and recognize the BAP as the legitimate national sports association for basketball in the Philippines.

"The law and the facts are behind the BAP," said Alentajan. "They are very clear, there is no room for misinterpretation."

He said there are only three grounds for expulsion under the POC charter: failure of an NSA to pay its dues; disbandment of the NSA and non-recognition of the NSA by the international supervising federation.

"The BAP has not violated the first, it is still operational and recognized by the Fiba. There is no legal ground for it to be expelled by the POC," said Alentajan. *Beth Celis*

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UAAP to probe deeper into La Salle eligibility case

By Jasmine W. Payo

CALLING LA SALLE'S REPORT "A BIT shallow," the UAAP board formed its own fact-finding committee yesterday to probe deeper into the eligibility case involving two Green Archers.

"Most people have the impression that La Salle stopped with the investigation (of the eligibility case)," said league president Fr. Max Rendon. "It was a bit shallow. Did it just end there with (contractual statistician Raul) Lacson and (assistant team manager Manny) Salgado? After they denied everything, what now?"

Making up the five-man investigating committee are league secretary-treasurer Dr. Ricardo Matibag of host Adamson, Josie de Leon of Far Eastern University, Fr. Nat de Sagun of University of Santo Tomas, Arlene Royo of National University and league legal counsel Atty. Rene Villa.

"The report was considered incomplete and that there are questions left to be answered," said Matibag, noting that the board only received a two-page summary from La Salle, while the media obtained a four-page report during a La Salle press conference two weeks ago.

Contrary to expectations, no sanctions were meted out to La Salle during the four-hour meeting held en banc at the Adamson University.

While the DepEd had already verified that the Philippine Educational Placement Test (PEPT) certificates of Archers Mark Benitez and Tim Gatchalian were fake, the UAAP board, in a released statement, said it would rely on the result of its independent inquiry to come up with a "a sound resolution to the matter."

"We don't want a piecemeal decision here," explained Rendon. "Everybody knows that there's a violation here but it (the sanctions) will come later. We'll just wait for the investigation to finish. The investigation will also help us in making more meaningful rules. It could help us when we amend the rules."

The new panel will convene next week to discuss investigation procedures. The board did not impose a deadline but according to Rendon, the committee should submit an initial report after a month.

H. Centre seeks lead versus FEI

HARBOUR CENTRE SURPRISED EVERYONE, INcluding its head coach, when the Portmasters opened their campaign with a convincing win over the veteran-laden Montaña Pawnshop in the PBL Heroes Cup.

"My players are young and I didn't expect my team to play that well in the first game," said coach Dindo Pumaren of his Portmasters, who will gun for a share of the lead versus league rookie Far Eastern Insurance at 4 p.m. today at the JCSGO Gym.

"We just have to stay aggressive," added Pumaren, who is seeking a tie with Magnolia at 2-0. "And again, it's important for us to have a good start."

Montaña Pawnshop and Granny Goose, with similar 1-1 records, shoot for their second straight win when they collide at 2 p.m.

Joe Lipa will call the shots for Granny Goose for the first time after Jun Tan begged off from his coaching duties to focus on his business in Cebu.

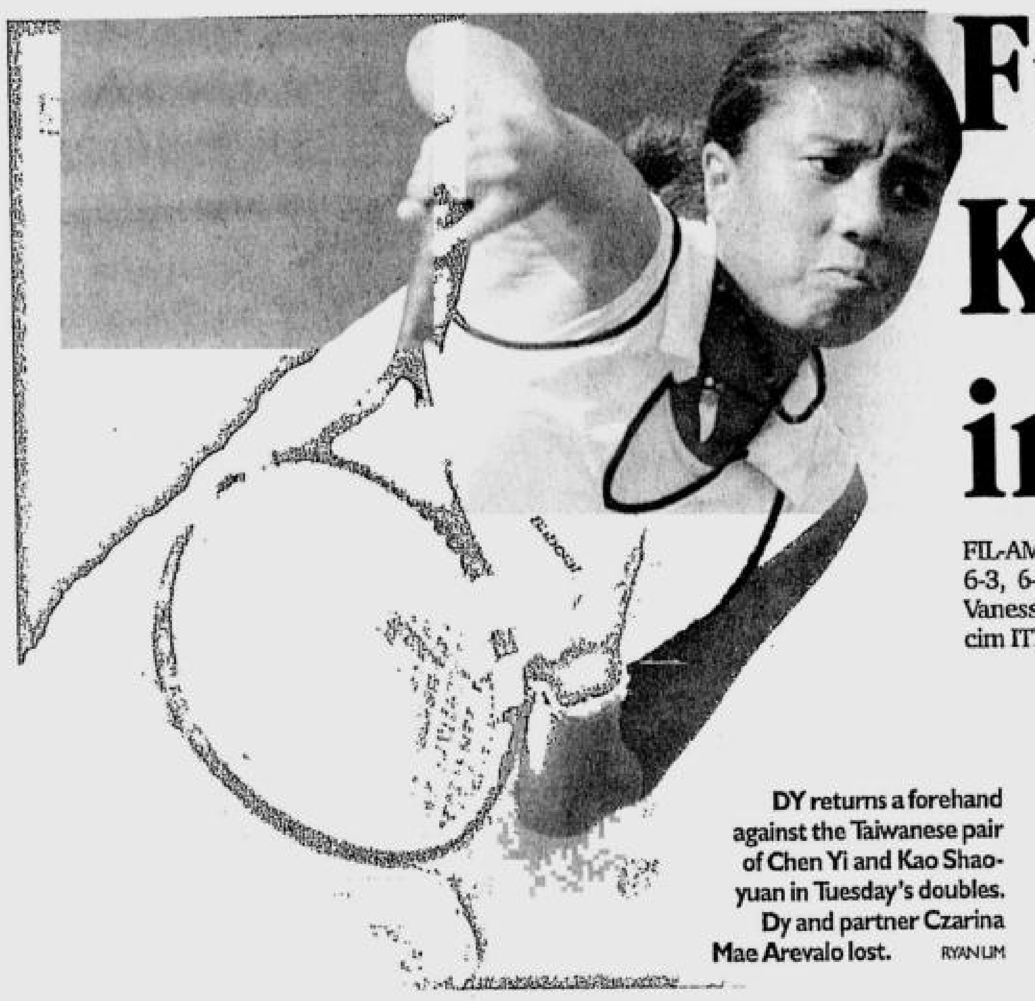
The Tortillos, though, gave Tan a good sendoff by posting a 62-54 victory over Toyota Otis-Letran last Saturday.

Just like the Tortillos, the Jewels also recovered from their opening-day loss with a 64-48 rout of Hapee-PCU.

But coach Robert Sison said his Jewels still are finding their rhythm since the departure of his key players to the pros, among them main man Jon Dan Salvador and veteran forward Al Magpayo.

The Jewels had another rough start, even trailing in double figures in the opening minutes against Hapee before rediscovering their offensive firepower in the second half.

In contrast, everything seemed to be clicking for the Portmasters. Joseph Yeo and Red Vicente led the productive performance of Harbour Centre's collegiate stars for a 68-60 triumph over the Jewels last Thursday. *Jasmine W. Payo*



DY returns a forehand against the Taiwanese pair of Chen Yi and Kao Shao-yuan in Tuesday's doubles. Dy and partner Czarina Mae Arevalo lost. RYAN LIM

Fil-Am stuns Korean seed in ITF circuit

FIL-AMERICAN DENISE DY STUNNED SECOND SEED KOREAN LEE JIN-A, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, yesterday to join local wild cards and Philippine teammates Anja Vanessa Peter and Czarina Mae Arevalo in the second round of the $10,000 Holcim ITF Women's Circuit 1 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Dy's next opponent is Korean qualifier Zhang Ling of Hong Kong, who needed an extra set to beat American Zena Williams, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.

Peter, who together with Dy just got back from tournaments in Bangkok, downed compatriot Noelle Zoleta, 6-3, 6-2, to advance against Korean top seed Lyoo Suh Hee-sun, who beat Japanese Hiromi Okazaki, 6-4, 6-3.

Arevalo's 7-5, 6-2 upset win over fourth seed Thai Pichittra Thongdach set her up against American qualifier Maureen Diaz, a 6-1, 6-2 winner over Korean Kim Yeon-Ju.

"My shots are okay but my confidence level is not too high," said the 17-year-old Peter, whose Filipino mother is married to a German national. "It will be tough playing the top seed but I'm going to give her a good fight."

Peter, who spent six months competing all over Europe, lost 2-6, 7-6, 6-2 to the world No. 695 Lyoo in this tournament last year in Pasig City.

Only three locals remain in the hunt for the $1,568 singles champion's purse after Fil-American Riza Angela Zalameda was forced to withdraw yesterday due to illness.

Zalameda, the last recruit for the RP women's tennis team to the Southeast Asian Games after Arevalo, Peter and Dy, was confined for three days at the Manila Doctors Hospital due to acute gastroentiritis and was released only yesterday morning.

Zalameda was replaced by local lucky loser Ara Micayabas, who was scheduled to play Korean Seo Soon-Mi late in the afternoon.

In other matches, third seed Briton Rebecca Fong downed local wild card Aileen Rogan, 7-5, 6-1, to advance against Taiwanese Kao Shao-Yuan, a 6-2, 6-0 winner over American Marie Zalameda.

Other winners were fifth seed Taiwanese Chen Yi over Briton qualifier Rachael Hall, 6-0, 6-1, Taiwanese qualifier Chan Wing Yau over No. 8 Briton Natasha Khan, 6-7, 5-2 (ret.), Israeli qualifier Efrat Zlotikamin over Korean Kim Jung-Eun, 7-5, 1-6, 6-3, and Briton Georgie Stoop over Thai Varanya Vijuksanaboon, 6-2, 6-2.

Subic Bay Invitationals starts

DAVIS CUPPERS PATRICK JOHN TIERRO AND Johnny Arcilla banner a star-studded Subic Bay Invitationals which unwraps today at the Subic Bay International Tennis Center.

Tierro, the country's number one player, and Arcilla are using the week-long event sponsored by Cebuana-Lhuillier and Le Soleil de Boracay as preparation for the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

The event is also supported by Dunlop-Slazenger and sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association headed by Manuel Misa.

"This is great opportunity for the RP Men's team to get in a few good matches before the SEAG," said RP team manager Jean Henri Lhuillier.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Tourism manager Kenneth Peralta said the event is in line with the commitment of SBMA chair Feliciano Salonga and administrator Armand Arreza to make Subic the sports event and venue capital of the country.

"We welcome our top tennis players to Subic Bay and we hope them the best," said Peralta.

Ryan Daza of Brent Subic and Ley Moncera of the Olongapo Tennis Club battle it out for the lone wildcard slot.

Some of the big names competing in the main draw are Rolando Ruel, Chiemil Mantua, Adelo Abadia, Alex Lazaro and Rocky Paglalunan.

ITALIAN HEAVYWEIGHT: (From left) Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines secretary general Roger Fortaleza, Abap president Manny Lopez and lawyer Pablito Sanidad award Athens Olympics bronze medalist and super heavyweight Roberto Cammarelle of Italy during the International Joint Training program recently at the Atrium in SM Baguio City. The program attracted world-class boxers from Ireland, Australia, Germany, Brazil and Sri Lanka, who trained and fought with members of the SEA Games-bound national team.

Local execs bat for SEAG unity

OFFICIALS OF THE UNION OF LOCAL AUthorities of the Philippines (Ulap) yesterday sought a temporary cessation of political hostilities and asked both the administration and opposition leaders to support the country's hosting of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Ulap president and Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado said the political ceasefire will enable Filipinos to rally behind Team Philippines in the regional sports conclave that will draw some 12,000 athletes, coaches, officials and dignitaries from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"The political fireworks must not destroy the focus of our athletes in their search for glory nor should these interpose on the huge media mileage the nation will reap during the SEA Games," said Aumentado, also the president of the League of Provinces.

Ulap executive vice-president and Binalonan (Pangasinan) Mayor Ramon Guico Jr. national president of the league of Municipalities of the Philippines said that political grandstanding must be subordinated this time for the common good.

Macatangay retains lead

CALAMBA CITY—YOUTHFUL TERENCE MACAtangay carded a second straight five-over-par 77 yesterday to hold on to shaky two-shot lead over Anthony Fernando halfway through the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Ayala Greenfield Estates course here.

Macatangay posted nines of 38-39 over the hazard-laden layout designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. for a 36-hole aggregate of 154 as the rising talent from La Salle-Lipa kept the more seasoned Anthony Fernando at bay.

Fernando submitted a 78 for the second straight day and needed a birdie on the 17th to stay close to Macatangay with a 156 total.

Jong Laput (78-160) stayed in third place but not after a disastrous finish that derailed his leadership bid in the tourney also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT. 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

Laput went seven over on his final six holes, including double bogeys on the 13th and 18th, that told heavily on his drive to stay within striking distance of the leaders a day after tournament favorite Kim Chang Hoi was disqualified for hitting from a wrong place.

Scores kept soaring due to the difficult conditions from the long championship tees of Ayala Greenfield with Benjie Sarmiento (82-164) and Korean Oh Jae Hwan (85-169) occupying the fourth and fifth positions.

Jungolfer Beverly Mendoza led the first batch of winners with her 79 giving the St. Paul-Pasig student a seven-stroke victory in ladies Class A. Mendoza beat another jungolf standout Regan de Guzman, who shot 83-157.

STI-Sta. Rosa wins

STI-STA. ROSA OPENED ITS BID WITH A BANG even as defending champions Philippine Christian U-Dasma and St. Francis of Assisi-Bacoor kept their winning ways in their divisions in the continuation of the 6th Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) basketball competitions at the Colegio San Agustin-Biñan gym.

The STI dribblers crushed rival school AMA Las Piñas, 77-62, in the premier men's senior game of the 11-member league.

"We've waited for this (first game) for a long time and I'm glad we're finally into the groove of things," said STI-Sta. Rosa athletic director Bien del Carmen.

SPORTSWATCH

Tahanan paces Nokia golf

THE TAHANAN VILLAGE GOLF TEAM, DRAWING BIG GAMES FROM SEVEN OF ITS mainstays, pooled a 358-aggregate then nipped Don Enrique Heights in the count back to snatch the lead in the first round of the Nokia intervillage golf finals at the south course of the Cangolf complex in Laguna Monday. Gil Domingo and Lito Abad sizzled with 39 points apiece under the Stableford scoring format, Cora Fyfe and Manuel Ozamis each fired 38 points, Eduardo Reyes had 36, while Milton Lalisan and Ramon Caballero tossed in 35 apiece to power Tahanan to the top of the 36-hole event. Tahanan, third placer in the south sector elims, shoots for the crown when the final round of the event is played at Cangolf's north course on Nov. 14.

Hernandez Memorial netfest set

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING AGE-GROUPERS WILL SEE ACTION IN THE INAUGUral Willie Hernandez Memorial Tennis Championships on Nov. 12 and 13 at the Manila Polo Club. For inquiries, call Sports and Games of Manila Polo Club at 817-09-51 loc. 260.

JVC badminton listing ends

REGISTRATION FOR THE JVC INTER-SCHOLASTICS BADMINTON CHAMPIonships ends today with the bulk of the competing schools expected to beat the 5 p.m. deadline. The tournament is set Nov. 17-20 for the qualifiers at Powersmash with the tournament proper slated Nov. 21-24 at the Glorietta. The organizing IMG (International Management Group) said registration is free. For details, contact 894-2995, 0917-8050702, 0917-8050601, 725-2568 and 0917-5288970. Entry forms are also available on the event's website, www.jvcbadminton.com.

Spalding offers cage tips

SPALDING, THE OFFICIAL BASKETBALL AND BACKBOARD OF THE NATIONAL Basketball Association, is bringing the gospel of scientific basketball closer to the Filipinos by offering tips on how to keep a steady shooting arm or dribble with either hands to consumers and window shoppers. Spalding, in cooperation with Coach E Basketball School and Pilipinas Makro, conducted the first of the Spalding Basketball Tips last month at the newly opened Makati branch of Pilipinas Makro. Shoppers were also treated to games using Spalding NBA basketballs and backboards.

Cavite Int'l Derby lures 100 entries

TWENTY-FIVE MORE COCKERS ARE JOINING THE 15TH EDITION OF THE CAVITE 7-Cock International Derby, bringing to more than a hundred the number of confirmed participants as of yesterday. Slated on Nov. 29, Dec. 1 and 3 at the Cavite Colleseum Derby Center and Casino, the event will be hosted by former Sen. Ramon Revilla, Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado and William Co. Among the new participants are Jun Topacio, Cris Milla, Vic Sison, lawyer Ferdie Topacio, Val Lopez, Dean Joson,Efren Canlas, Cong. Gerry "Boy" Espina, Jing Paras and Larry Wacnang. call 0915-5742399 or (046) 9704810 (Ferdie Bautista or Mandy).

LGBA championship round today

LAST YEAR, FARMER MANUEL LUI OF PANGASINAN BAGGED THE LUZON Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) Breeder of the Year award. Tonight, a new winner will emerge when the LGBA 7-stag derby finals, featuring 105 fights, sizzles at the Araneta Coliseum starting at 1 p.m. The leaders are Jun Santos (13.5 points), Sonny Lagon (13), Eugene Tan (12), Jun Guia, Dalwin Yulangco and Gene Garcia (11.5), Jaime Arandia, (11), Romy Tan, Tony Boy Tabora and Joel Artus (10.5) Contact 926-7808, 924-5072 and 0920-5851940 (look for Taz Lunasco).

FG vows continued support for RP bets

By Musong R. Castillo

FIRST GENTLEMAN JOSE MIGUEL Arroyo visited athletes training in different disciplines yesterday and vowed continued support for them even after the 23rd Southeast Asian Games next month.

"As long as we're in Malacañang, our support for you will not stop," Arroyo, who was accompanied by Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez, told national judo, wushu, wrestling and weightlifting athletes during a surprise round of the Rizal Memorial sports complex.

"I'm sure we will get enough medals to win the overall title," he added, referring to the country's bid to dominate the SEAG in its third staging of the event.

The Rizal Memorial was actually the First Gentleman's second stop in his hectic schedule to meet all the 878 athletes that will represent the country in the Games that get off the ground on Nov. 27.

He visited those training at the PhilSports complex in Pasig late Tuesday afternoon and will address more than 300 who are in deep training in Baguio and in Subic today.

Mr. Arroyo was also able to get a guarantee from the Inter-Surface construction company that the portion of the track oval that "bubbled up" on Tuesday will be repaired and completed by Nov. 20.

Work on a small stretch of the track's final bend had to be repeated after heavy rains Monday night contaminated the mixture of materials of the granite surface and caused bubbles to appear.

Arroyo spearheaded a huge fund-raising drive for the training of the athletes earlier in the year with his FG Sports Foundation soliciting P160 million from the private sector which were given to the different National Sports Associations.

San Miguel Corp. was the biggest donor with its P100 million donation.

Part of the fund was spent for the airfare of the national teams that were sent to various parts of China for training.

G5 LAUNCH: Steven Hsu, regional head of Ping, describes the features of the new Ping G5 driver to Golf Depot's Mike Osmeña and Joey Mendoza while Colin Field, fitting manager, looks on during the recent launch of the G5 Series at Wack Wack

WTA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pierce, Sharapova pull off victories; Davenport scores

SHARAPOVA AP

LOS ANGELES—MARY Pierce surprised Kim Clijsters, 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (2), at the WTA Championships on Tuesday in a wildly uneven rematch of their US Open final.

Top-ranked Lindsay Davenport improved to 7-0 lifetime against Nadia Petrova of Russia with a 6-2, 7-6 (1) victory in round-robin play.

Defending champion Maria Sharapova defeated Patty Schnyder of Switzerland, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, making Schnyder 0-3 in opening matches of the season-ending tournament.

Davenport didn't face a break point on her serve. She fired nine aces and connected on 74 percent of her first serves against Petrova, a first-time singles qualifier in the championships.

"That really made a difference," Davenport said. "I've always struggled a little bit here because there's no backdrop. I lose my depth perception."

Clijsters beat Pierce in straight sets to win her first Grand Slam title in September.

"I was just hoping it would be better than the last match," said Pierce, who had never beaten the 22-year-old Belgian in three previous meetings.

This time, Pierce held a match point in the second set in front of a sparse crowd at Staples Center, but Clijsters reeled off three straight points to even the match.

Clijsters was off her game from the start, committing 31 unforced errors and 11 double faults. Pierce was equally messy, making 21 errors, although she converted five of seven break chances.

"In the first set, Kim wasn't playing well. Something was bothering her and she wasn't moving," Pierce said. "I was surprised how I won the first set quickly and easily."

Clijsters arrived in Los Angeles Friday, and is still overcoming jet lag.

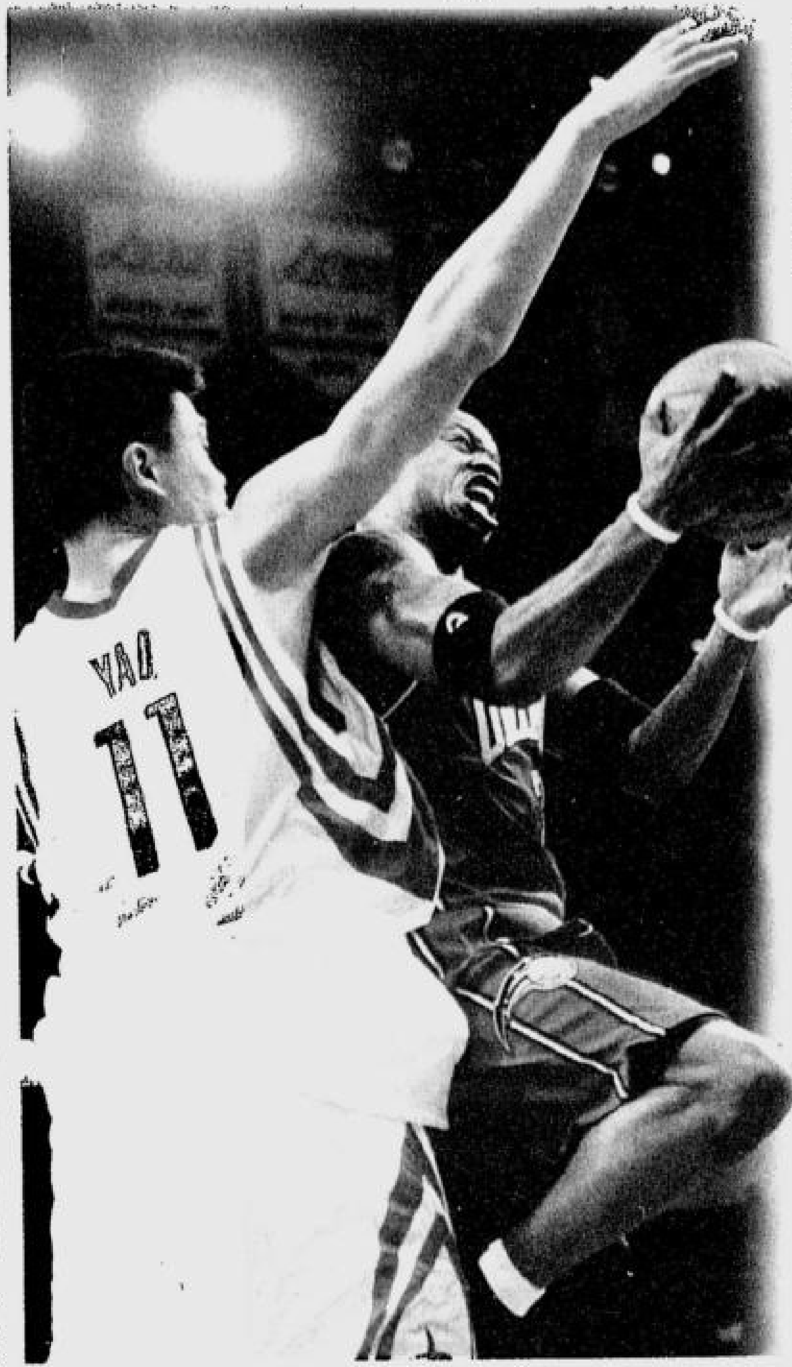
"I never felt like I was quite there. I felt really tired," she said. "The only thing I want to do is go to the hotel and go to sleep."

Sharapova earned the only break of the third set in the second game, when Schnyder was held to one point.

"It was up and down," Sharapova said. "I felt a little awkward in some situations because I haven't been match tough lately."

Pierce leads the Black group with a 1-0 record. The top two finishers in each group advance to the semifinals, which are single elimination. *AP*

Kobe powers Lakers



DIMINUTIVE point guard Steve Francis weaves his magic for Orlando, which nipped Yao Ming and the Houston Rockets. AP

ATLANTA—KOBE BRYANT SCORED 37 POINTS, INCLUDING TWO drives to spark a 14-2 second-half run, and the Los Angeles Lakers spoiled Atlanta's home opener, beating the Hawks, 103-97, on Tuesday night.

Bryant topped the 30-point mark for the fourth straight game and had 37 for the second straight game—just off his NBA-best average of 36.3.

Atlanta, sparked by Joe Johnson's season-high 26 points, led 29-19 in the first quarter and 51-48 at halftime. But following the last tie at 63, Bryant scored on back-to-back drives to send the Lakers on the run that made it 77-65.

The Lakers kept the lead in double figures most of the rest of the game.

Smush Parker had 21 points and has scored 20 or more points in three of the Lakers' four games. Lamar Odom added 13 points and 11 rebounds, and Devean George had 12 points.

Al Harrington returned after missing two games with an ankle injury to get 18 points and 10 rebounds for Atlanta. Tyronn Lue and Zaza Pachulia each had 13 points.

The Hawks, 0-4 for the second straight year, are coming off a franchise-worst 13-win season.

In Memphis, Tennessee, Shane Battier and Pau Gasol each scored 20 points and sparked a third-quarter rally as the Grizzlies routed the Seattle Supersonics, 94-69.

Battier scored 13 points in the third quarter as Memphis built its lead to 68-51. Battier outscored the Sonics by himself until the final minute of the period. Meanwhile, Gasol had 10 in the quarter which Memphis closed with a 10-2 run.

The win was the third straight for Memphis, and gave the Grizzlies (3-1) their second-best start in franchise history. They were 4-1 to open the 2000-01 season. It also snapped a six-game losing streak to the Sonics, who had won five straight in Memphis.

Mike Miller added 14 points for the Grizzlies and Eddie Jones had 10.

Ray Allen led the Sonics (1-2) with 15 points, less than half of his 31.5 average through Seattle's first two games.

In Milwaukee, Baron Davis had 20 points and 15 assists and the Golden State Warriors went 13-of-27 from 3-point range to beat the Bucks, 110-103.

Troy Murphy scored 25 points—including 4-of-7 from beyond the arc—and Jason Richardson added 23 for the Warriors (3-1). Mo Williams and Michael Redd each had 21 points for the Bucks (3-1).

Davis, a two-time All-Star, also throttled TJ Ford, the Eastern Conference's player of the week. Ford went 3-of-14 with eight points and 11 assists—10 in the first half.

At Houston, Steve Francis scored 27 points and had two assists to Jameer Nelson in the final two minutes as the Orlando Magic won for the first time in four games, nipping the Rockets, 76-74.

The Rockets (1-2) lost their second straight without Tracy McGrady, who's out three weeks with a back injury.

Francis, who played for Houston from 1999-2004 and was traded in a blockbuster deal for McGrady in June 2004, shrugged off booing to go 12-of-26 from the field. *AP*

RP SEAG netters best ever—Lhuillier

By Beth Celis

THE BEST TENNIS TEAM EVER assembled for the Southeast Asian Games.

This is how Jean Henri Lhuillier, newly appointed RP team manager for tennis and softball, describes the Filipino netters competing in the Manila Southeast Asian Games scheduled Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

The presence of US-based international campaigners Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino and the homecourt edge, according to Lhuillier, are the key ingredients to a successful Philippine campaign.

"This is the best team we have ever assembled for the Southeast Asian Games," Lhuillier said.

Col. Salvador Andrada, Asian Tennis Federation head and former president of the Philippine Tennis Association, was more specific.

Andrada foresees four gold medals for the RP netters, which should be good for the overall championship in the event dominated by Thailand through superstar Paradorn Srichapan in the 2003 Vietnam SEAG. Srichapan won't be around this time as he fulfills another international commitment.

Mamiit is ranked No. 207 in the world and Taino 213th by the International Tennis Federation.

PROJEC: LAU:ICHING
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RACE FOR LIFE
The officers of the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc., the Manila Jockey Club and the Philippine Racing Commission sign the memorandum of agreement for the staging of the 2nd Race for Life, which will feature two major races—The Speaker's Cup and the Congressional Spouses Cup. The event hopes to raise funds for The Haven for Street Children and The Haven For Women. The races will be held on Sunday, Nov. 13 at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

STOKINGER

Stokinger targets World Kart final

AFTER dominating the F125 Senior Rotax Class in the 2005 Shell Super Karting Series with five wins in six races Marlon Stokinger set his sights on representing the Philippines in the Rotax Max world finals on Nov. 26 in Langkawi, Malaysia.

The 14-year-old Stokinger is the youngest driver ever to win the senior Rotax series as well as the youngest and first Filipino to qualify for a World Kart final.

In January 2005 in Spain, Stokinger, driving for Swiss Finance & Investment Corp., Birel Motorsport, Kart Care, Kartmore Racing Services, Bridgestone, Salon Prive, Lima City Hotel, Le Souffle Restaurants and Malaysia Airlines, finished a respectable 12th out of 36 drivers from all over the world.

Lamb-like meekness

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE MEETING AMONG DE LA SALLE Alumni on Nov. 12, Saturday, is being awaited with bated breath. The entire basketball republic is focused on this if only because the case has gripped the nation in suspended animation since it broke out into the open early last month.

Will the meeting finally pluck the university out of the rut as a result of the ineligible player row that struck the Taft Avenue institution of learning a while back?

That is the prayer of everybody, including myself.

If I may suggest, the meeting should begin with humility and end with humility. It should not be used to find fuel in the unfortunate, nay unrelenting, bashing of De La Salle, which has suffered enough already.

These days, each jab, punch, thrown at De La Salle is like one nail hammered into its coffin.

It's become so gruesome that if this were a boxing match, De La Salle could be down on the canvas, its face a bloody pulp, its eyes shut, its nose busted.

I hope the alumni will take the lead in showing remorse over the horrible fate that befell their university. They should even be apologetic, not belligerent. Ranged against a crowd that, seemingly, has not lost its lust for more blood, the alumni must be circumspect and put up an attitude of lamb-like meekness.

The time for finger-pointing should be a thing of the past.

Solutions, more than executions, must be targeted.

Recommend the firing of Franz Pumaren and his coaching staff?

Nope.

To paraphrase the good book: "The man without a sin, cast the first stone at the sinner..."

If Franz and his men refuse to resign, let them be. The sufferers suffer more with their stubbornness.

At De La Salle today, everybody, from top to bottom, from student to alumni, has blood in his/her hands.

One official's misconduct is the misconduct of the university.

As in a conspiracy, the fault of one is the fault of all.

You make a mistake, be repentant.
To be humble is to be repentant.
To be repentant is to be remorseful.
To be remorseful is to be apologetic.
That will be all for now.

***

Was I glad to see Jimmy Bautista, Henry So Uy and Bong Cruz playing together in a round of golf at the Manila Golf Club recently. Jimmy, of course, is the humble president of the Philippine Airlines. Henry is PAL's executive vice president while Bong is PAL's chief marketing strategist.

I have yet to see a powerful triumvirate of a giant corporation such as PAL enjoying each other's company in a round of golf. Surely, Lucio "Kapitan" Tan, PAL's chief "pilot," is a lucky man. His "Terrible Trio" must be cooking up another big project since PAL's recent move to return the Beijing-Manila flights has been met with resounding applause by the international business community.

And speaking of the Manila Golf Club, the premiere course found inside posh Forbes Park in Makati has backed out as venue of the women's golf competition in the SEA Games. Reason: Soggy fairways on some holes at the back nine may not dry up to world standards in time for the event from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1.

Thus, The Country Club in Canlubang will host the event, together with the men's competition from Dec. 2 to Dec. 5.

It is hoped the country will do well in golf, if not sweep all four gold medals staked-two golds each in individual and team events in both men and women competitions.

***

FASTBREAK. Happy birthday to Toti Cariño, who will host the Chairman's Cup on Nov. 13 as he turns a new leaf that day at the Fairways & Blue Waters in Boracay. Too bad I'll be in Shanghai that day for the HSBC Champions Tournament featuring Tiger Woods, Michael Campbell and Colin Montgomerie, among others. Otherwise, I would have honored the invitation of Toti, a rare gentleman these days when you are not too sure anymore whether the one you are talking with is fake or genuine. Cheers, Toti!

RP's aquatic center ready for the Games

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—ONE OF the people who played a key role in pooling funds for its construction calls it the "Aquatic center of the Philippines." A swimming official dubbed it the "finest facility" in Southeast Asia.

And though its unveiling revealed several finishing touches yet to be applied, it is clear the Trace College Aquatic Complex will be the home of future swimming champions.

For now, though, the spanking P60-million facility will be home to the country's national swimmers who will compete in the Southeast Asian Games to be held here. Aquatics competitions kick off Nov. 22, five days before the biennial meet's official opening on the 27th.

"This is by far the finest swimming facility not only in the Philippines but also in Southeast Asia," said swimming association president Mark Joseph.

And this despite the fact that some of the technology still needs to be installed. The diving pool is still empty, the floor still needs paint and the touch pads—which relay the swimmers' times to electronic scoreboards—are still in the supply room.

Officials are not worried with the unfinished tasks, saying the facility will be ready for the SEA Games.

Swimming has 32 gold medals at stake, diving has 10 and water polo one, which make aquatics one of the medal-rich disciplines in the Games.

Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor) chair Ephraim Genuino, who helped pool resources for its construction, credited Megaworld's Andrew Tan and six other local businessmen for financing the project.

Genuino calls the venue the "Aquatic center of the Philippines," where all national and international events will be held. The facility also includes a 25-suite complex.

The swimming pool boasts a 10-lane, rim-flow pool made up of PVC lining which, Genuino said, doesn't collect molds like the ones paneled by tiles. Its stands can accommodate 2,000 spectators.

The pool can be transformed into a short course via "bulk head" that would divide it into two 50-meter pools. The diving pool will be equipped with a "spager," which softens the impact on the diver when he or she hits the water.

A warm-up pool was also constructed at the back of one of the galleries in the property.

INQBox
Question of the Week
Your message to the politicians:
What will finally bring peace and prosperity to our nation?
Win this *Inquirer shirt
Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBox wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Shirt! Ü
Key in: inquirer box name/age/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)
*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808 local 335. Provincial winners can text: inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.

After Brussels win, Buboy awaits third baby's birth

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

KUDOS TO MY DEAR FRIEND **CESAR Montano** for winning the prestigious "Grand Prix Special du Jury" with his "Panaghoy Sa Suba" at the 32nd Festival International du Film Independent held in Brussels.

Robert Malengreau, festival director, e-mailed me this message: "The presentation and the screening were successful. More than a thousand people came to watch ... [and] gave Cesar a standing ovation."

I'm sure Buboy's lovely wife Sunshine would have wanted to be around during the awards but she had to stay behind due to her delicate pregnancy. She's due to give birth first week of December. After Buboy's astounding performance in "The Great Raid," comes another international recognition. What a feat! Success could not have found a more deserving person.

***

Jed Madela admits he is an admirer of **Rachel Ann Go's** but that a chance of romance between them fizzled out even before it started. "She has a love team now; I don't wanna get in the way." A lovable guy like Jed will surely win the heart of one lucky girl, as sure as he is the reigning Grand Champion Performer of the World.

***

My son IC and I enjoyed guesting on **Ariel Ureta's** "My Favorite Show" on ABS-CBN News Channel (replay on Saturday) I grew up watching "Ariel and Company after 6." He has not lost his touch as host. He is genuinely interested in what his guests have to say. No wonder his show is living up to its name.

***

Toni Gonzaga has a refreshing face but she should try not to modulate her voice too much in "Pinoy Big Brother." It sounds unnatural. On TV more than anywhere else, it's not only what you say but how you say it that matters.

***

Hero Angeles and **Ryza Cenon** made a charming pair in "Extra Challenge." According to a production member of "EC" Hero was quiet during the entire taping and kept to himself most of the time. After his falling out with ABS-CBN, will the Kapuso network be his hero and save him from oblivion?

'MTK'

"MAY TRABAHO Ka!" on QTV 11 is the country's only public service reality show that aims to give away jobs. For a specific employment, applicants will be tested to determine which one has the required skills and willpower. Tests will be in the form of challenges, which will help the judges decide which applicants should stay or go, and which one gets the job. Pilot episode airs on Sunday, 8 p.m. with hosts **Mariz Umali** and **Paolo Abrera.**

GMA 7 is searching for a new entertainment correspondent, and MTK was quick to help. From several hundreds who submitted résumés, 100 were chosen for the first screening. They were asked to deliver an entertainment news spiel that they themselves wrote. They were evaluated by **Grace dela Peña**, head of GMA 7 News Operations; **Rey Pumaloy,** entertainment columnist; and **Fayatolah,** "Startalk" segment host, after which the applicants were reduced to 40.

Henceforth, the tests become tougher. For the next round, the remaining 40 will pick names of actors from boxes and describe them. **Eagle Riggs** and **Suzi Entrata** of "Unang Hirit" judge this challenge, after which the applicants are further trimmed to 20.

This group faces yet another difficult test, Star Connections. They are presented with pictures of celebrities whom they have to connect to each other. My colleague **Lhar Santiago** gives the verdict that will cut the remaining 20 applicants in half, to determine who will move on to the final round.

Who will prevail? Succeeding episodes air Sundays, same time.

Soiree Beaujolais

EXACTLY a minute past midnight of every third Thursday of November each year, millions of cases of Beaujolais Nouveau wines are consumed in bars and cafés throughout France.

A lot more are opened all over the world. As signs proclaiming, "Le Beaujolais Nouveau est arrivé! (The Beaujolais Nouveau has arrived)!" spring up, people wait with bated breaths to sample this young red wine.

French communities everywhere celebrate Beaujolais Nouveau, making it the biggest and most successful French wine event globally.

Le Club-French Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines mounts the 17th Soirée Beaujolais in the country with the theme "La Pyramide du Louvre," on Nov. 17 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

There will be a wide array of cheeses, pastries, and other specialties flown directly from France. Guests can enjoy these and more in the ambiance of a French street café.

The Manila Symphony Orchestra II (MSO) will launch the party with music from French composers and Broadway musicals set in Paris. Ntwine and Hi-Way 69 bands will rock the night away in the ensuing dance party which will last way past midnight. **Johnny Litton** and **Pat Evangelista** will host this one enchanted evening.

Handsome raffle prizes worth over P700,000 are at stake, the biggest of which is a round-trip ticket to Paris from Air France-KLM with a 17-day free use of a Peugeot 307 HDI car courtesy of Peugeot Open Europe. Call 813-9005 or 812-0433 or email le_club@globelines.com.ph for tickets to this fabulous fête.

(E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com)

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 8337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY)	FLIGHPLAN PG13
2 (DOLBY)	CRYWOLF PG13
3 (DOLBY)	FOUR BROTHERS R13
4 (DOLBY)	LEGEND OF ZORRO GP

PREMIERE

(DOLBY)	FLIGHPLAN PG13

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	DOOM
2 (SDDS)	FOUR BROTHERS
3 (DTS)	40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
4 GOLD (DTS)	FLIGHT PLAN
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	CRY WOLF
6 GOLD (SDDS)	FLIGHT PLAN
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 ([illegible])	ILUSYON
9 ([illegible])	ISPIRITISTA
10 ([illegible])	ABNORMAL BEAUTY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 (DOLBY)	FLIGHT PLAN
3 (DOLBY)	FLIGHT PLAN
4 (DOLBY)	CRY WOLF

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	LEGEND OF ZORRO
2	DOMINO
3	WAITING
4	FLIGHT PLAN

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 (DOLBY)	FLIGHT PLAN
3 (DOLBY)	ISPIRITISTA
4 (DOLBY)	ILUSYON

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ISPIRITISTA
2 (DTS)	FLIGHT PLAN
3 (DOLBY)	LEGEND OF ZORRO
4	40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(BINAN) tel. (049) 4111146

1	40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
2 (DOLBY)	FLIGHT PLAN
3 (DTS)	LEGEND OF ZORRO
4	ISPIRITISTA

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY)	LEGEND OF ZORRO
2	CRY WOLF
3	ISPIRITISTA
4	FLIGHT PLAN
5	ABNORMAL BEAUTY

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	LEGEND OF ZORRO
2	ISPIRITISTA
3 (DOLBY)	INTO THE BLUE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	ILUSYON
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	FLIGHT PLAN
5	LEGEND OF ZORRO

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	FLIGHT PLAN
2	ISPIRITISTA
3	LAND OF THE DEAD
4	RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	DOOM
2	ISPIRITISTA
3 (DOLBY)	TRANSPORTER-2
4 (DTS)	LEGEND OF ZORRO

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	CRY WOLF
2	FLIGHT PLAN
3	ISPIRITISTA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	FLIGHT PLAN
2	ISPIRITISTA
3 (DOLBY)	CORPSE BRIDE

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1	ISPIRITISTA
2	ILUSYON
3	LEGEND OF ZORRO
4	FLIGHT PLAN
5 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
6	RESERVED

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1	FLIGHT PLAN
2	TRANSPORTER-2

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	FLIGHT PLAN
2	ISPIRITISTA
3 (DTS EX)	LEGEND OF ZORRO
4	HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	
2	ILUSYON
3	INTERNET QUEEN
4 (DTS)	NAKED WAPON

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	FLIGHT PLAN
2	SISID
3 (DTS)	40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
4	ISPIRITISTA
5	LEGEND OF ZORRO

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	ONE MISSED CALL-2
2	ISPIRITISTA
3 (DOLBY)	LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 (DTS)	FLIGHT PLAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	FLIGHT PLAN
2	LEGEND OF ZORRO
3	INTO THE BLUE
4	ISPIRITISTA

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004

1 (DOLBY)	PLEASE CALL
2	

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	ISPIRITISTA
2	CORPSE BRIDE
3 (DOLBY)	TRANSPORTER-2
4 (DTS)	40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN

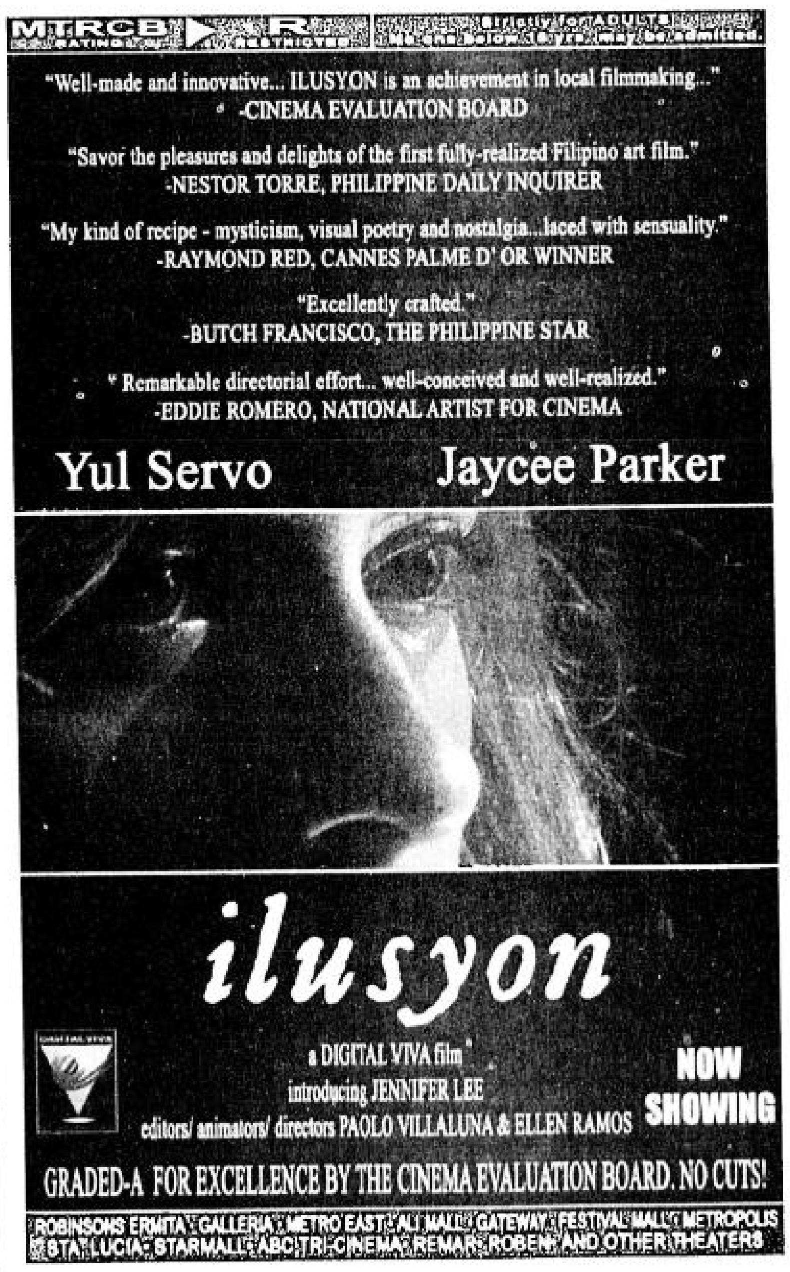
Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	ISPIRITISTA
2	LEGEND OF ZORRO

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	DOMINO
2	PAKAWALANG PUSO

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

"Well-made and innovative... ILUSYON is an achievement in local filmmaking..."
-CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD

"Savor the pleasures and delights of the first fully-realized Filipino art film."
-NESTOR TORRE, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

"My kind of recipe - mysticism, visual poetry and nostalgia...laced with sensuality."
-RAYMOND RED, CANNES PALME D' OR WINNER

"Excellently crafted."
-BUTCH FRANCISCO, THE PHILIPPINE STAR

"Remarkable directorial effort... well-conceived and well-realized."
-EDDIE ROMERO, NATIONAL ARTIST FOR CINEMA

Yul Servo Jaycee Parker

ilusyon

a DIGITAL VIVA film
introducing JENNIFER LEE
editors/ animators/ directors PAOLO VILLALUNA & ELLEN RAMOS

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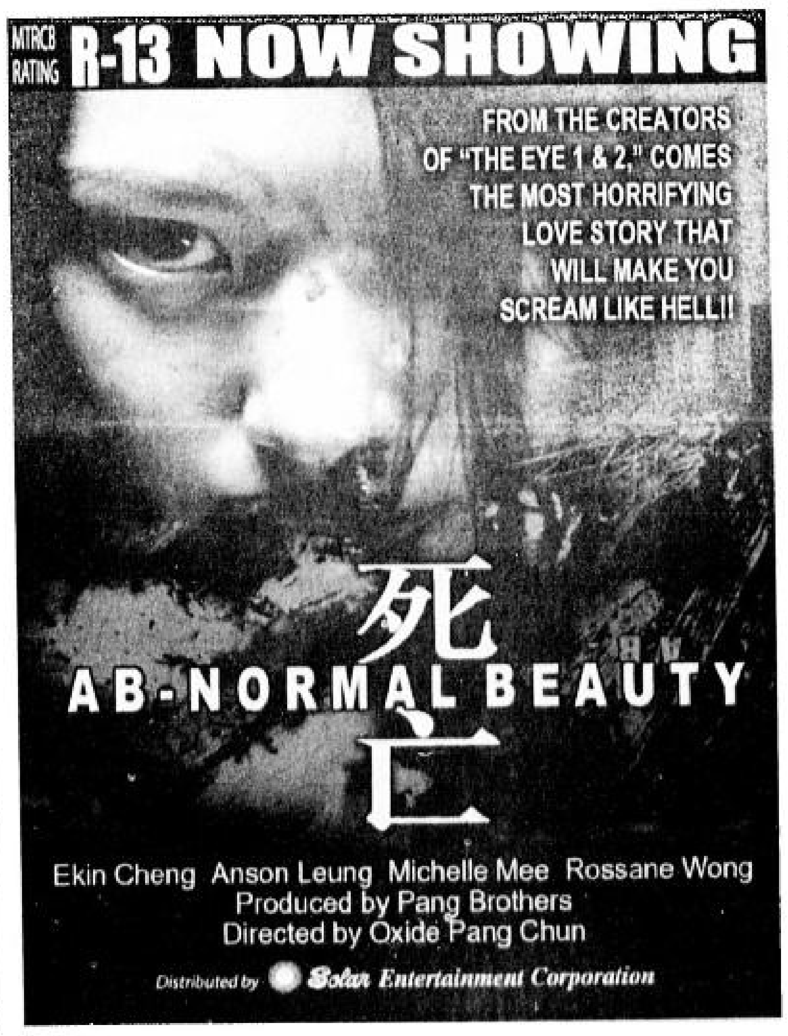

MTRCB RATING R-13 NOW SHOWING

FROM THE CREATORS OF "THE EYE 1 & 2," COMES THE MOST HORRIFYING LOVE STORY THAT WILL MAKE YOU SCREAM LIKE HELL!!

死
AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
亡

Ekin Cheng Anson Leung Michelle Mee Rossane Wong
Produced by Pang Brothers
Directed by Oxide Pang Chun

Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation

Bea's 20 birt

ABS-CBN star Bea Alonzo celebrated her debut at t
Baseco compound in Tondo. "Bea personally went t
Francisco, an executive producer at the network. T
by Eldar, the Wizard. Aside from enjoying the rides
sary promo) birthday package—magic show, meet-
Thanking her guests, the birthday girls said: "I just
day with you!"

MTRCB scolds Kapamilya sh

By Marinel R. Cruz

TWO ABS-CBN SHOWS ON tuesday received a warning from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) for airing "objectionable" scenes that featured females in skimpy outfits that "exposed" their breasts.

'Very sexy'

In a memorandum signed on Nov. 7, MTRCB Chair Marissa Laguardia ordered network executives to attend a dialogue with the board on Tuesday to discuss violations commited on the programs "Asap Mania" and "Magandang Umaga, Pilipinas."

An earlier memo addressed to Laguardia and signed by special agents of the Board's Monitoring and Inspection Unit (MIU), reported that "Asap" mainstay Cherry Lou wore a "very sexy/skimpy outfit" during a dance number on the Nov. 6 episode of the noontime variety show.

The memo also noted that Jen Ramos, a member of the dance group Full Circle, exposed one breast while performing.

In another previous memo, the MTRCB noted the airing on Nov. 7 of a video featuring fashion models wearing clothes "with visible/clear breasts" on "Magandang Umaga, Pilipinas."

"Cherry Lou's outfit almost exposed her brea
pointed out. "Jen
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Staying a

VIEWFINDE

Nestor U. Torre

IT'S ONE THING TO ACHIEVE stardom, and quite another to hold on to it. Many stars don't shine in the entertainment firmament for very long because they don't realize that stardom isn't a permanent state of affairs; it's a prize that stars must keep winning.

To make the challenge clearer, some of the entertainment world's most popular luminaries share how they've managed to stay on top of the show biz heap, years and even decades after they first attained stardom:

Last year, **Oprah Winfrey** made $225 million, and her TV show has regained the top ratings numbers it once lost. It's now seen in 12 countries, and is viewed by 30 million people weekly in the United States.

Oprah's longevity as a star is explained by her decision to use her show for audience empowerment and inspiration. In so doing, she's plugged into a huge but largely untapped audience of people who want to understand their lives better, and thus become the best human beings they can be.

A word to the wise for TV people who play it much too safe to develop the unique personality they need to truly come into their own: The wonderful irony in all this is that Oprah decided to buck the "practical" commercial syndrome—and yet, she's ended up making more money than anybody else!

Mel Gibson is still reaping the rewards of his own daring gamble, "The Passion of the Christ." Its re-release wasn't a hit, but its DVD sales were, so Gibson grossed $185 million last year.

George Lucas made $290 million, adding
his "Star Wa
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Johnny Depp
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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

bday escorts

he Enchanted Kingdom with 20 children from the
the grocery to buy snacks for the kids," said Belle
he star and her starry-eyed party were welcomed
the group was also treated to EK's (10th anniver-
nd-greet with the park mascots and face painting.
spent my most memorable and meaningful birth-

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OWS

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₱5 more for festival movies

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

MOVIE TICKETS FOR THE Metro Manila Film Festival will cost P5 more.

Ric Camaligan, president of the National Cinema Association of the Philippines (NCAP) and first vice president of SM Leisure Inc. (which operates SM Cinemas), said the increase would cover operations expenses for the festival. "But after the fest, the ticket prices will be rolled back," he said.

As for the looming permanent increase on account of the VAT, Camaligan said he hoped theater owners wouldn't be forced to take such a step.

"We want to attract more moviegoers, not drive them away," he pointed out. That's precisely why NCAP, he explained, was against the VAT.

NCAP sent a protest letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo last July, but Malacañang, Camaligan recalled, turned it over to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). "But we [also] approached the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Congress."

He described NCAP's efforts so far as successful. "The BIR came out with an order to stop the collection of an additional 10 percent tax while matters were still being discussed. Response from lawmakers was also favorable."

Ticket costs are usually increased during the MMFF's two-week run and prices usually remain jacked up after the event.

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two films, "I,
," earned $350

Ferrell is a rela-
, but his starrers
is that he's now

paid $20 million per film.

P. Diddy made $36 million, after selling half of his catalogue to Warner Music. And "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling earned $59 million!—Who says writers still have to starve for their art in lonely garrets?

DID YOU KNOW...

Cesar Montano, winner of Best Director and Best Picture trophies at the recent International Festival of Independent Films in Brussels for his "Panaghoy sa Suba," knows exactly where he's going from here: "To the Oscars!"

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 LEGEND of ZORRO - GP 11:00, 1:45, 4:30 7:15, 10:00
CINEMA 2 WAITING R13 11:35, 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:25

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 CRY WOLF R13 10:35, 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 10:00
CINEMA 4 FLIGHT PLAN PG13 11:30, 1:40, 3:55, 6:10, 8:25, 10:40
CINEMA 5 FLIGHT PLAN PG13 10:40, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

"YOU CAN PURCHASE IN ADVANCE FOR HARRY POTTER 4" Starting November 9 - November 21 only

MUSIC MUSEUM
NOVEMBER 11 & 12 CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA 9PM
November 18, 2005 K. PROSAS 8PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 FLIGHTPLAN
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
MTRCB: PG-13

2 CRY WOLF
12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15
MTRCB. PG-13

3 FOUR BROTHERS
1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 9:00
MTRCB: R-13

4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10
MTRCB: GP

PREMIERE THEATRE FLIGHTPLAN
12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20 MTRCB. PG-13
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

"HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE"
OPENS IN SHANG CINEPLEX ON NOV. 16.
GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE
STARTING OCT. 28!

Regular Ticket Price
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150
Premiere Theatre - P295 (includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 / 633-4735 for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"
Film opens November 16
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00 GP
2 FLIGHT PLAN 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:50, 11:00 PG-13
3 FLIGHT PLAN 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 PG-13
4 CRY WOLF R-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP 1:25,4:10,6:55,9:40	FLIGHT PLAN PG13 1:50,4:10,6:30,8:50	FLIGHT PLAN PG13 12:15,2:35,4:55,7:15,9:35
FOUR BROTHERS R13 12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50	CRY WOLF R13 12:00,2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00	FLIGHT PLAN PG13 1:00,3:20,5:40,8:00,10:20

Tickets for "HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE" now available

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Araneta Center Leisure Guide

CINEMA SCHEDULES

Gateway Cineplex 10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

FLIGHT PLAN 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
CRY WOLF 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
ILUSYON 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20
THE FOUR BROTHERS 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
ISPIRITISTA 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
FLIGHT PLAN 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
WAITING 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 ISPIRITISTA 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
2 FLIGHT PLAN 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10
3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:00 / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15
4 ILUSYON 12:45 / 3:20 / 5:55 / 8:30
5 CRY WOLF 1:05 / 3:30 / 5:55 / 8:20

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
Nov.11 Friday SAN MIGUEL vs AIR 21 4:40 pm; GINEBRA vs RED BULL 7:25 pm
Nov.13 Sunday PUREFOODS vs RED BULL 4:10 pm; COCA COLA vs ALASKA 6:40 pm

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Megamall EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE Nov. 21 • Cinema 1
Manila JUST LIKE HEAVEN Nov. 25 • Cinema 1
Megamall ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS Nov. 29 • Cinema 2
Megamall AN UNFINISHED LIFE Dec. 1 • Cinema 2
Megamall THE FOG Dec. 5 • Cinema 1

FILM FESTIVAL
Megamall ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL
Nov. 17-19 Cinema 6
Nov. 11-13 Cinema 2

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 FLIGHTPLAN 11:45FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/06:45 08:25LFS/09:00LMF/10:40END
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:20FS/12:50MF 03:00LFS/03:30LMF/05:40END
ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL 7:30 PM

MEGAMALL
1 FLIGHTPLAN 10:40FS/11:10MF/01:20/03:30/06:40/07:50 09:30LFS/10:00LMF/11:40END

CEBU (032) 231-3076
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO 11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00 09:11LFS/09:30LMF/11:40END
2 FLIGHTPLAN 11:20FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:10END
3 TRANSPORTER 2 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46 07:38/09:08LFS/09:30LMF/11:00END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 DOOM
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
6 CRYWOLF
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 WAITING
9 ISPIRITISTA
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 LORD OF WAR
12 DOMINO

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 CRY WOLF
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 DOOM
8 WAITING
9 THE GHOST INSIDE
10 DOMINO

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM VALENZUELA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DOMINO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 DOMINO
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 FOUR BROTHERS
6 CRY WOLF
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 ISPIRITISTA
9 DOOM
10 DUBAI
11 MY SASSY GIRL
12 WAITING

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 CRY WOLF
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 DOOM
6 DOMINO
7 FOUR BROHTERS
8 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
9 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
10 WAITING

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 FOUR BROTHERS
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 DOOM
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 WAITING
5 CRY WOLF
6 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
7 FOUR BROTHERS
8 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM CITY MANILA
1 AB- NORMAL BEAUTY
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 WAITING
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 DOMINO
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DOOM
9 MY SASSY GIRL
10 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
11 THE GHOST INSIDE
12 CRY WOLF

SM CINEMA SAN LAZARO
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 WAITING
4 DOOM
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 ISPIRITISTA

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3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 FLIGTHPLAN

SM CITY BACOOR
1 WAITING
2 DOMINO
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 THE GHOST INSIDE
8 DOOM

SM CITY MARILAO
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 DOOM
4 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 FLIGHTPLAN

SM CITY LUCENA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 DOOM
4 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 UNDISCOVERED
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DOOM

SM CITY ILOILO
1 MY SASSY GIRL
2 RESERVED
3 DOOM
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 RESERVED
8 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL

SM CITY DAVAO
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
6 DOOM

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

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Confusion at the MMFF

Regal entry questioned by execom member

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THERE WAS CONFUSION AT the launch of the 31st Metro Manila Film Festival at the Aliw Theater lounge on Tuesday.

When the title of Regal Entertainment's entry, "Blue Moon," was announced, Manuel Nuqui, president of the Philippine Motion Pictures Producers Association (PMPPA) and a member of the festival executive committee, pointed out: "The title of the entry is 'Nasaan Ka Nang Kailangan Kita' [not 'Blue Moon']."

After the press con, Nuqui told INQUIRER Entertainment that "Blue Moon" and "Nasaan Ka" were "two different movies" and the latter was the "official entry."

"Several months ago, the executive committee received a request [to change the entry from 'Nasaan Ka' to 'Blue Moon'], but we said we couldn't do that because 'Blue Moon' (whose script is a Palanca Award winner) is a different project."

"Blue Moon" director Joel Lamangan confirmed: "The script of 'Nasaan' is by Raquel Villavicencio; the script of 'Blue Moon' is by Allan Tijamo. Mother Lily [Monteverde, Regal Films producer] told me that she already withdrew 'Nasaan' [in favor of 'Blue Moon']. But the two movies have the same cast."

No problem

Roselle Monteverde-Teo, Monteverde's daughter and the Regal representative present at the launch, said: "'Nasaan' was the title submitted."

Asked if it was the "Blue Moon" script with a different title, Monteverde-Teo replied, "Yes. It's by Allan Tijamo."

She acknowledged the confusion created by the last-minute changes, but remained hopeful that the kinks would be ironed out.

"There shouldn't be a problem," she said, "although we revised it a bit. We will just let the [MMFF organizers] decide."

Nuqui insisted that there were rules to be followed.

If any one of the seven finalists, "for whatever reason," failed to beat the deadline, he clarified, "the filler [replacement] would have to come from the finished films in the second batch."

The first batch starts screening Dec. 25; the second batch, Jan. 1.

Asked whether "Blue Moon" was, in fact, in the second batch, Nuqui said, "No. I don't foresee that ... What is clear is that we've made the correction today. When it was announced that the title was 'Blue Moon,' it wasn't like we didn't lift a finger."

Pauleen's first kiss with Mark

By Nini Valera

PAULEEN LUNA, THE YOUNG actress identified in tabloid stories as the reason for the breakup of Jennylyn Mercado and Mark Herras, has admitted that her first kiss was with Mark.

Describing the kiss as a smack, she told INQUIRER Entertainment in an exclusive interview last Friday that the kiss was her "first ever in my whole life."

But she claimed that she felt nothing while kissing Mark.

"We kissed for a scene in our movie 'Blue Moon,'" she explained. "The kiss was not intentional. At first, I did not want to have a kissing scene, but how can you argue with Direk Joel (Lamangan)?"

Pauleen, 17, said she felt nervous during the scene.

"I had to ask my *yaya* to fetch my mom so she would be there during the take," she recounted. "But the take was finished when she arrived."

"Blue Moon" has been announced as Regal Entertainment's entry to the 2005 Metro Manila Film Festival. But this caused some confusion during the festival launch on Tuesday. *(See story at left.)*

In the movie, Pauleen is in a love triangle with Mark and Jennylyn. She would not reveal who gets the guy. She said she and Mark were enjoying their friendship, but denied causing the breakup of Mark and Jennylyn.

PAULEEN, Mark and Jennylyn

They're okay

In fact, she said, she and Jennylyn were also friends.

Pauleen said she and Mark got together only three weeks ago, during a taping of a Valentine special for GMA 7 in Hong Kong.

This is not the first time that Pauleen has been in a show biz love triangle. Last year, she got the ire of Kristine Hermosa when gossip columns linked her to Kristine's boyfriend, Diether Ocampo, whom she starred with in "Volta."

"I told Kristine it wasn't true," Pauleen said. "That was the first and last time that she and I talked. When I left ABS-CBN (a few months ago, after her contract expired) Diether and I were okay. We did not do anything wrong."

The tabloid gossip, she said, was the worst thing that ever happened to her. "It's so easy for people to write about things," she lamented.

She described Mark as "very caring." He was always checking on her, she said. "Whenever possible, he spends time with me. During a taping last week, he finished at midnight, but he waited for me until 4:30 a.m."

But they don't date—yet.

"I tell Mark there's no need to rush things, that there are many things we still have to learn about each other."

ROUNDUP

Going 'Big Time'

"Big Time"—Best Screenplay and Best Sound winner at the first Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival—was rated A by the Cinema Evaluation Board. Writer-directors Mario Cornejo and Coreen Jimenez are ecstatic. "We jumped up and down [upon hearing the news]," Cornejo told INQUIRER Entertainment. The 100-percent tax rebate will be a big help, Jimenez explained, when the digital film makes its theatrical run starting Jan. 11. "We can't afford to blow it up," Jimenez owned up. "If there's anyone with P2 million to spare, please invest in our film—[though] SM Cinemas is very supportive since it has just bought digital projectors."

"Big Time" is only the third film to be given an A this year; the other two are "La Visa Loca" and "Ilusyon." *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

Day 1 for QTV

QTV Channel 11, the country's newest VHF channel and GMA 7's sister station, starts airing today. Powered by the facilities and expertise behind GMA 7, QTV assures viewers of a "delightful mix of alternative programming for women."

Who, me?

LONDON—Hollywood actress Kate Hudson, star of "The Skeleton Key," has instructed lawyers to begin action against several publications for printing pictures which she said falsely implied she had an eating disorder.

Hudson, daughter of actress Goldie Hawn, claims the pictures "suggested that she ... was wasting away, to the extreme concern of her mother and family," her lawyers said.

The images, and the articles that accompanied them, could also prove damaging to her career as it might raise concern amongst casting agents, London law firm Schillings added.

The publications included US tabloid The National Enquirer for its article last month titled "Goldie tells Kate: Eat Something! And She Listens!"

British magazine Heat and the Daily Mail UK newspaper are also cited. *Reuters*

KATE Hudson

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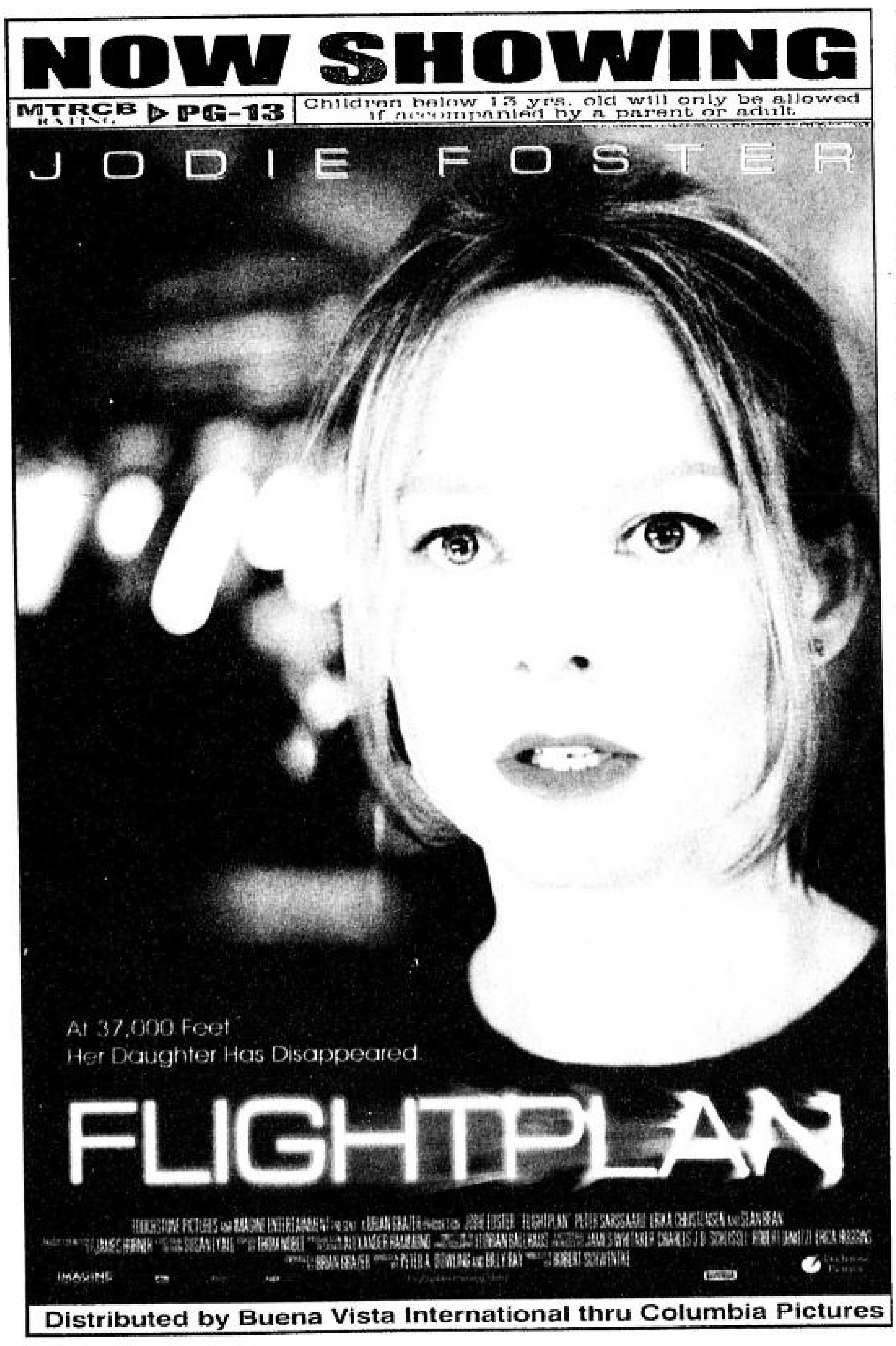
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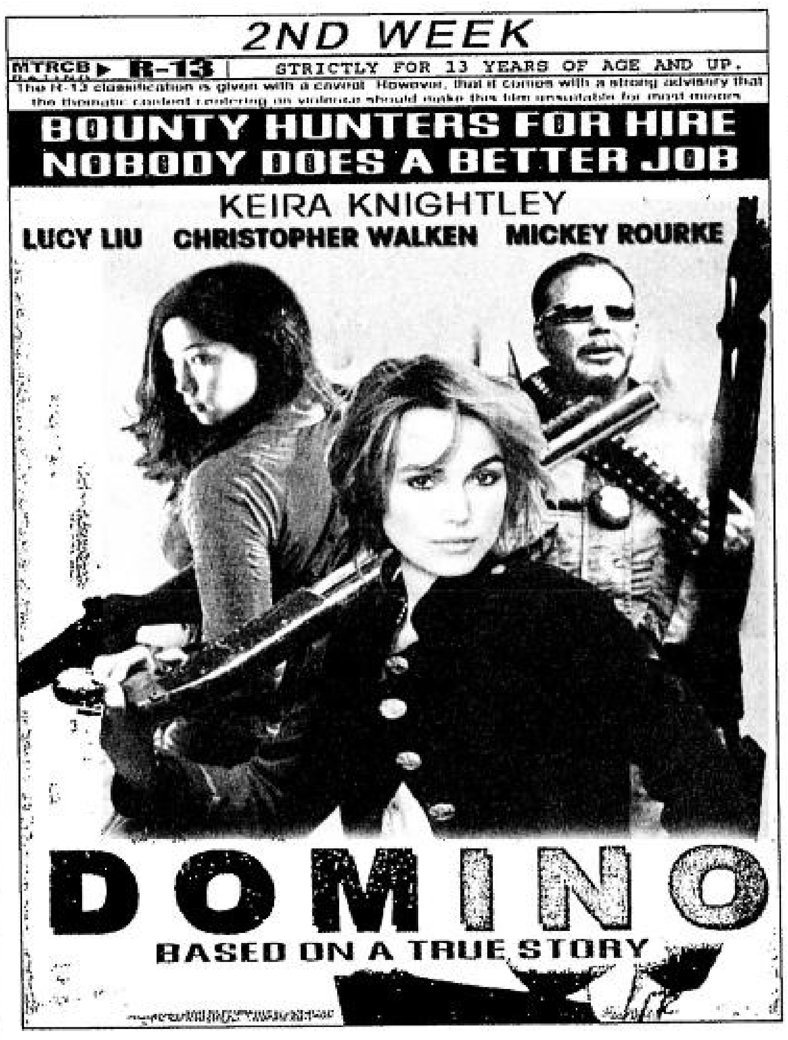
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DOMINO
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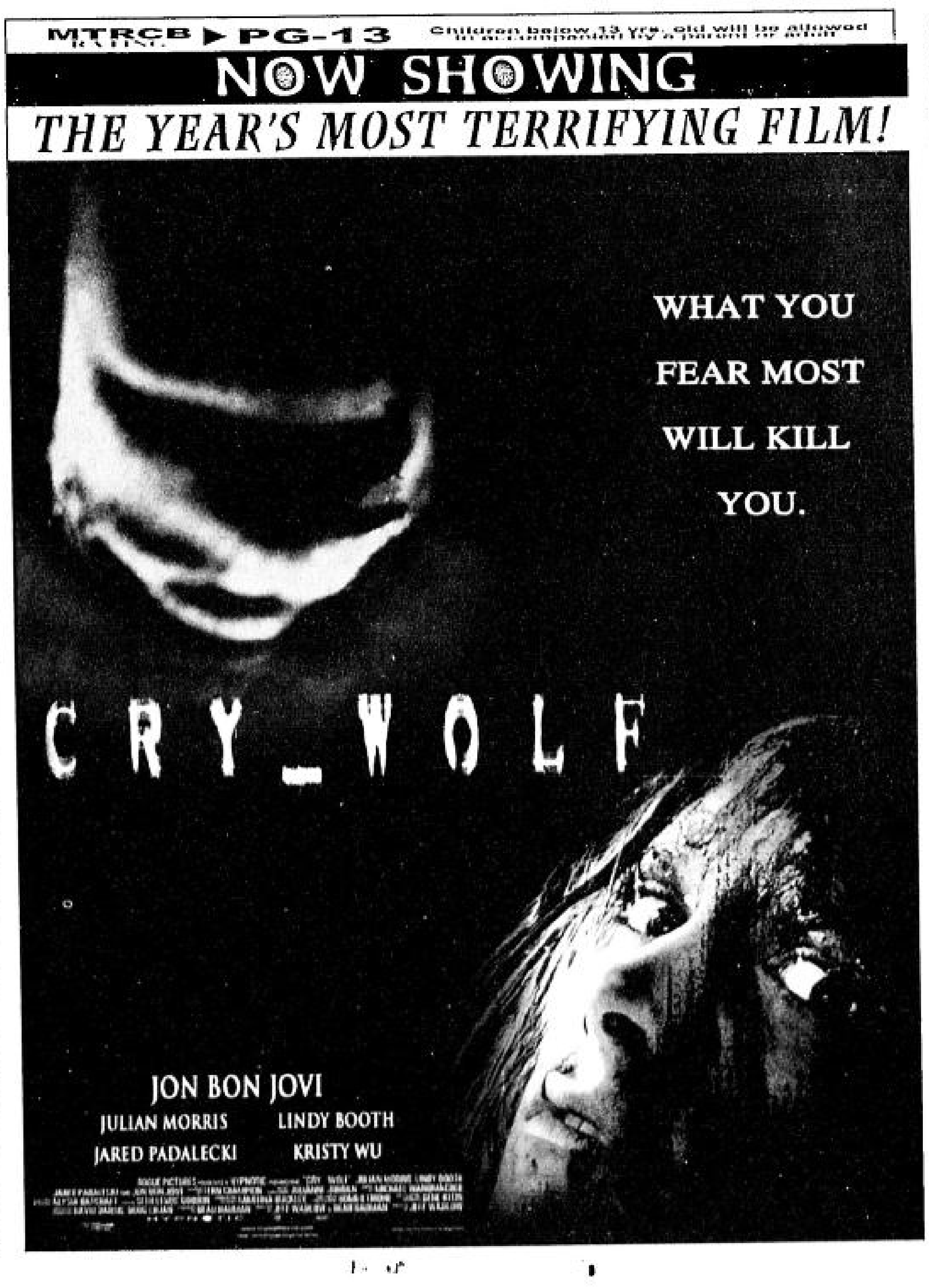
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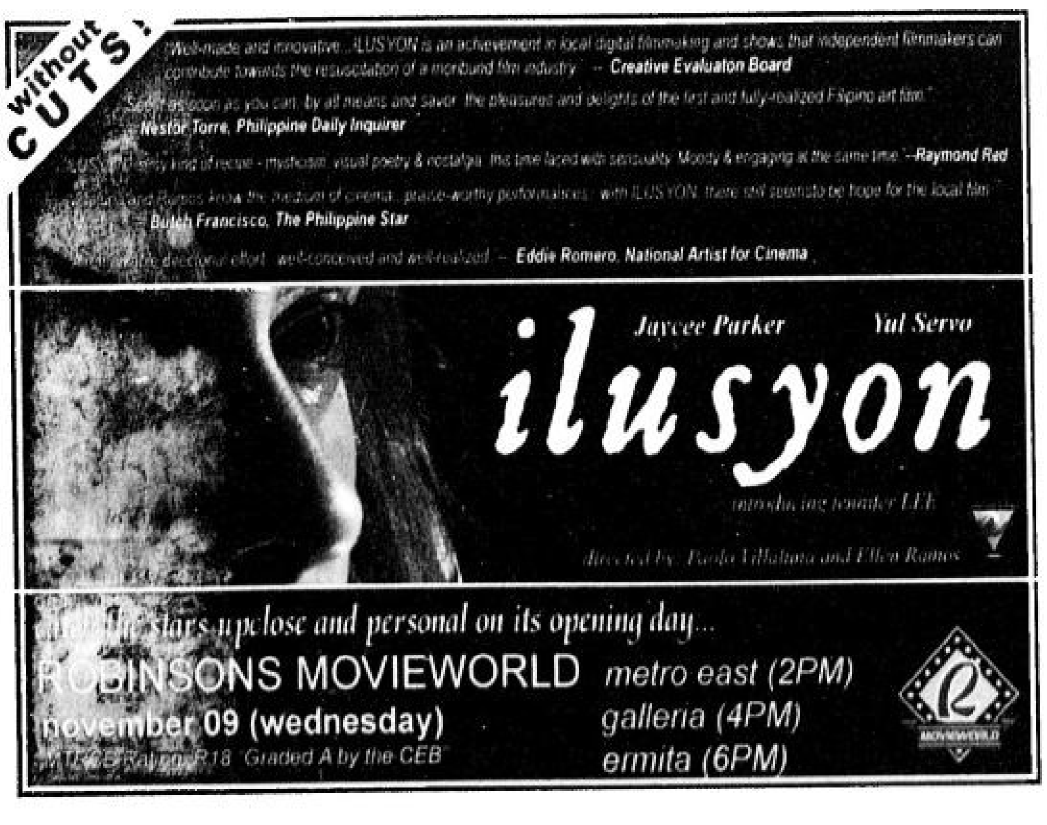
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2 FLIGHT PLAN
3 ILUSYON
4 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
5 CRY_WOLF
6 WAITING
7 DOMINO
8 ISPIRITISTA
9 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
10 FOUR BROTHERS

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 FLIGHT PLAN
2 WAITING
  ILUSYON
3 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
4 CRY_WOLF
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 DOMINO
7 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

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5 ILUSYON
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7 DOMINO
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2 ISPIRITISTA
3 DOOM
4 WAITING
5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

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2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
3 RESERVE
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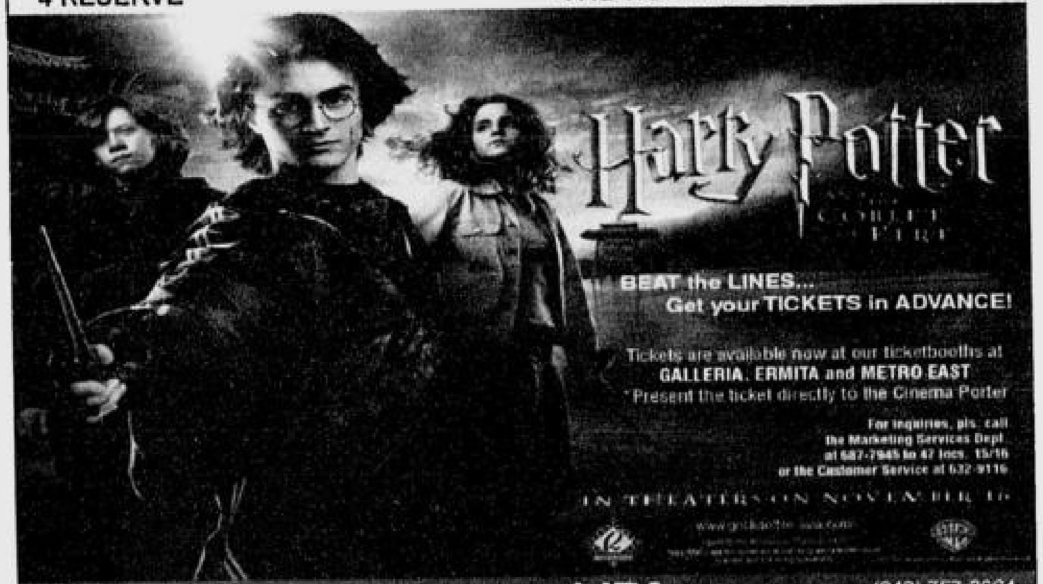
2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
3 CRY_WOLF
4 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY



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3 FLIGHT PLAN
4 WALLACE AND GROMIT

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2 ISPIRITISTA
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5 FLIGHT PLAN
6 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

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2 DOOM
3 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
5 MASAHISTA
6 THE ADV. OF SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL

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2 DOOM
3 THE ADV. OF SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL
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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 WAITING	2 FLIGHTPLAN	3 THX FLIGHTPLAN GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 ISPIRITISTA	5 CRY WOLF	6 LEGEND OF ZORRO	7 FOUR BROTHERS
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 LEGEND OF ZORRO	2 FLIGHTPLAN		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX FLIGHTPLAN GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX WAITING GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 FOUR BROTHERS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LEGEND OF ZORRO GUARANTEED SEATS	5 FLIGHTPLAN GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX FLIGHTPLAN	2 LEGEND OF ZORRO		
	3 WAITING	4 CRY WOLF	5 FOUR BROTHERS	
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Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi, R13
5:00pm
America, Pure Soap
Operation Thunderbolt, R13
7:00pm
Avodim, The Parlor
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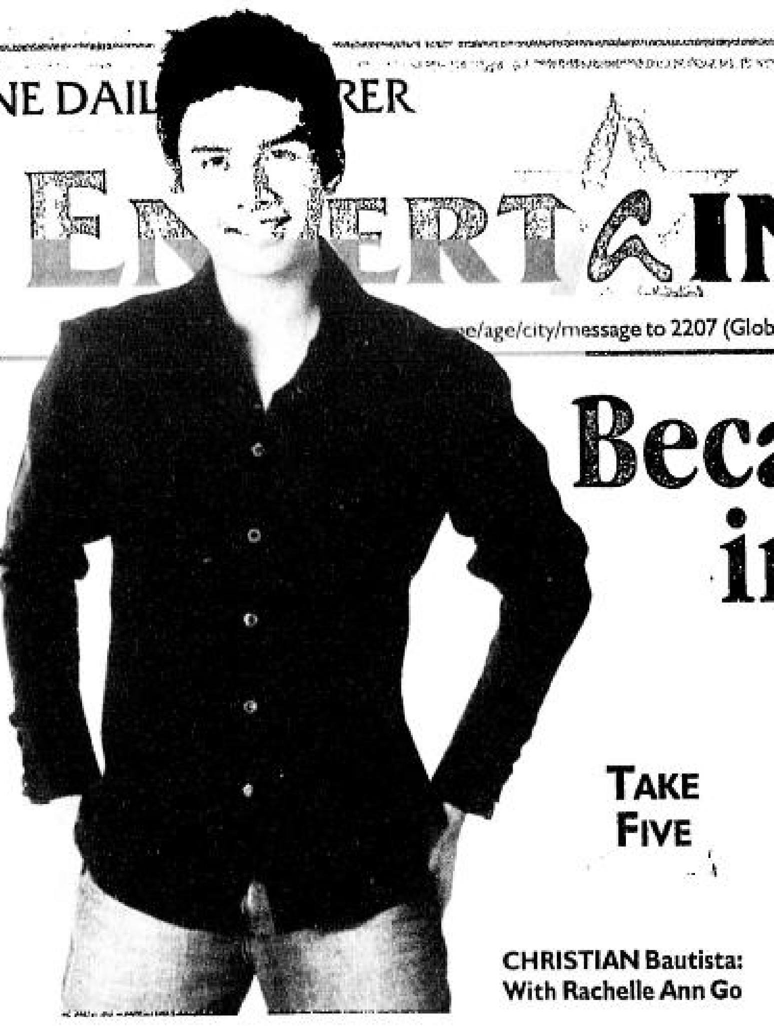

TAKE FIVE

CHRISTIAN Bautista: With Rachelle Ann Go

Because he's in love

By Kathryn L. Reyes

AS LORENZO IN ABS-CBN'S TELESERYE "Kampanerang Kuba," Christian admits he is not all that credible. He will be the first to say his acting needs work. As a romantic balladeer, however, he says he can very well play the role, as he is most comfortable expressing himself through song. And yes, he also openly declares he is "in love" right now.

That is why his concert, "Heartfelt," tomorrow and on Saturday at the Music Museum, couldn't have come at a better time. Coca-Cola girl Nikki Gil and Little Big Star's Sam Concepcion are Christian's guests.

How do you feel about this show?
My last concert was in a big venue (Araneta); this one's going to be intimate.

Aside from the smaller venue, what makes this show different from your earlier shows?
It's heavy on love songs. There won't be any dancing. *Sumayaw na ako* before; I know I need more practice.

Who chose the lineup?
Me, my manager Carlo, Kuya Audie (Gemora, director) and the musical director IJ (Garcia).

Are there numbers that you don't like?
No, but there are songs I'm having a difficult time singing because they are so old, I have to learn them first.

Now that you're doing "Kampanerang Kuba," are you comfortable with acting?
Have you seen me? Do I look comfortable?

Who evaluates your acting?
Si Kuya Audie. He said it needs work. I know it needs work.

When you're better at it, what kind of movie would you like to do?
Action or musical ... or a thinking love story, like "Before Sunrise."

Going back to "Heartfelt"—is it all-romantic because you're in love?
It is really for the fans [but] I *am* in love!

And who's responsible?
Rachelle Ann (Go).

How long have you been together?
Hindi pa naman kami pero we've become closer.

Does that mean you have an advantage over her other suitors?
Let's just say I know where I stand.

What do you love about her?
She's very sweet, very thoughtful.

Do you see yourself growing old with Rachelle?
If she lets me ... yes.

YACHANG: Undesirable alien?

Comedian's ex-lover wants him deported

By Leila B. Salaverria

A COMMERCIAL MODEL AND FORMER LIVE-in partner of comedian Yachang yesterday asked the Bureau of Immigration to deport the Japanese actor as an undesirable alien.

Yachang—real name Yasuaki Yamaguchi—is a mainstay of the ABS-CBN show "Quizon Avenue." He has appeared in a soy sauce TV commercial, and is a host on IBC 13's noontime show.

In a complaint filed with the BI, commercial model and TV talent Annalyn Nicole Jacob accused Yamaguchi of manhandling her.

According to the BI, Jacob said Yamaguchi "slapped, boxed and kicked" her several times while they were living together from April 27 to Aug. 6 of this year. As a result, Jacob said, she decided to break up with him.

During their rows, Jacob told the BI, the Japanese actor also uttered insults against Filipinos. Plus, she said, she contracted urinary tract and uterine infections from their sexual relations. As proof, she submitted medical certificates and copies of her prescriptions.

The BI said it was studying Jacob's complaint. Yamaguchi is covered by a special work permit issued by the bureau's Board of Commissioners.

Foreigners working in the country are required to get such a permit from the bureau or from the labor department.

Dito sa QTV,
hit na hit ang biritan at paligsahan!
mms my music station
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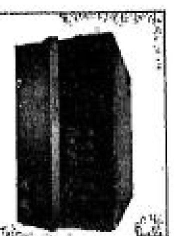
Saturdays 5pm
FAM JAM
Let's Get aWWW!
Sundays, 1pm
SHOW KO!
Qtv
Channel 11
Kwento natin to

Ang Musical Programs and Contests sa QTV [illegible] pampasigla ng ating panonood. Mapapanood [illegible] at ngayon. May bago na naman tayong pambato sa mga singing contests [illegible] pamilya. Dito, panalong-panalo tayo sa masayang panonood.

Bigay-todo na ang biritan at paligsahan sa November 1. QTV. Quality Television powered by GMA Network.

Mapapanood ang QTV sa Channel 27 sa Cebu at Davao.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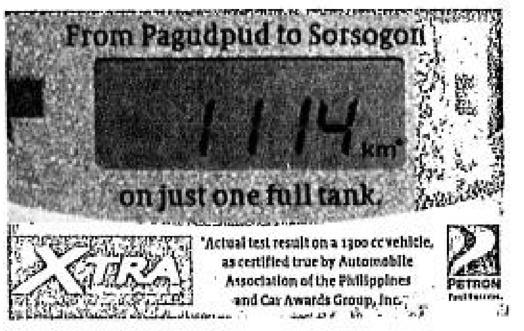


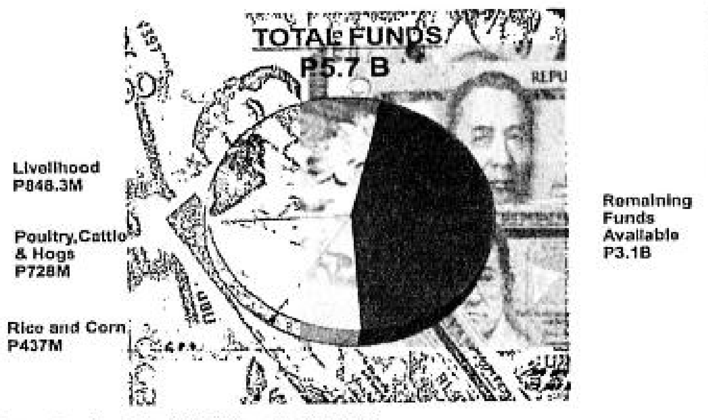
*Actual test result on a 1300 cc vehicle, as certified true by Automobile Association of the Philippines and Car Awards Group, Inc.

Stocks surge to highest in 8 months

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Quedancor lending service (January to June 2005)



Source: Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation

QUEDANCOR a government owned corporation, that provides affordable and accessible credit to the countryside, released a total of P2.6 billion worth of loans in the first half of the year. Its May and June releases of P654M and P575M, respectively, were the two highest recorded monthly releases in the agency's 27 year history. Its whole year loan target for 2005 is P5.7 billion. At 14 percent annual interest on these loans, government expects to earn P36.4 million by next year.

Chona Galang, PDI Research

Improving economic outlook luring investors

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FOREIGN BUYING LIFTED THE stock market to its highest level in eight months on expectations that international agencies will raise the credit rating of the Philippines after the Arroyo administration finally implemented in full the expanded value-added tax (VAT) law.

Analysts had said that the VAT's implementation would ease the country's fiscal problems through a more equitable revenue collection system.

"There is fresh speculation that credit-rating agencies would upgrade the credit outlook, if not the credit rating itself, because of the VAT and its positive fiscal impact," said Jojo Gonzales, president at Philippine Equity Partners Inc.

"There's improved sentiment now in the market, with the political noise set aside as investors focus on corporate earnings and the improving economic outlook," says BPI Securities senior manager Roberto Cano.

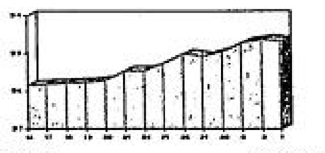
The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 50.37 points, or 2.5 percent, to 2,097.30, its highest close since March 17, when it ended at 2,100.11. Traders said it will likely continue to rise.

Total trades amounted to P1.75 billion. Foreigners bought P1.07 billion worth of shares yesterday, but also sold P721.9 million, resulting in net foreign buying of P352.1 million.

STOCKS/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 54.74 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 9, 2005

¥ 117.96 = $ 1

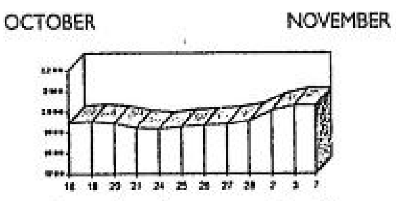
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 9, 2005

GOLD: $457.00-457.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 9, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Globe net profit rose slightly in 3rd quarter

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE TELECOM INC. POSTED A SLIGHT gain in third-quarter net profit to P2.2 billion from P2.17 billion in the same period last year, but its nine-month net income of P6.4 billion was down 28 percent from P8.99 billion a year ago on higher marketing expenses and tax provisions.

The joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singa

GLOBE/ B2

Teves wants Buñag as new BIR chief

By Michelle V. Remo

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARITO Teves has recommended to Malacañang the appointment of Jose Mario Buñag, officer in charge of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, as the country's new revenue commissioner.

According to a ranking government source, Teves already notified President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that he wanted Buñag to head the BIR, and that he expected the President to make a favorable response in the next few days.

Teves earlier said he was keenly monitoring the revenue-collection performance of the BIR under Buñag's leadership before deciding on whether or not to recommend him.

Buñag took the role of BIR officer in charge in July. He was asked to temporarily head the revenue agency following the resignation of Guillermo Parayno Jr., who left government service together with other Cabinet officials who expressed dismay over the Arroyo presidency.

In July, the BIR registered an under-performance, as it collected only P40.77 billion compared with its target of P46.61 billion.

It recovered in August by surpassing its P51.76-billion target and collected P53.92 billion. But in September, the BIR again registered a shortfall, collecting P38.2 billion compared with the target of P38.5 billion.

On a cumulative basis, the BIR seems to be struggling to meet its full-year collection target of P547 billion. For the January-to-September period, BIR collection stood at P392.9 billion, still P9.3 billion short of the P402.3-billion target for the period.

TEVES/ B3

WHAT'S INSIDE

10-month vehicle sales up 13% /B3

Ethanol prospects draw in int'l investors /B8

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*The price of the Honda City is as of October 2005 and may change without prior notice.
**Advance Payment Scheme, where the first monthly payment is paid upon booking of the loan.

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Kuok Group sells stakes in 2 firms

Elizabeth L.Sanchez

LAND OWNER KUOK PHILIPPINE Properties Inc. has sold its interests in companies that own at least 13 hectares of land leased to the Mactan Shangri-La Hotel and Resort Inc., as well as areas adjoining it.

In a disclosure, KPPI corporate secretary Federico Noel said the company sold its 100-percent interest in the British Virgin Island-based holding firm Joint Central International Ltd. (JCIL) to another affiliate, Sharp Advance Investments Ltd., also based in the British Virgin Islands.

JCIL is the holding company that owns 20 percent in Brown Swallow Development Corp. and Green Mangrove Realty Inc.

Brown and Green are the registered owners of 13 hectares of property in Punta Engaño, Mactan Island in Cebu, which are, in turn, leased to Mactan Shangri-La Hotel.

In another transaction, KPPI's subsidiary Clavall Properties Inc. (CPI) also sold its equity in Clavall Realty Corp. (CRC) to affiliates Mactan Beachfront Resources Inc. and Sharp.

MBRI bought 60 percent, while Sharp acquired 40 percent in CRC.

CRC is the registered owner of a 1.6-hectare property just beside the Shangri-La Mactan Island Resort and Spa.

MBRI and Sharp are members of the Kuok Group of Companies.

Proceeds of the sale have yet to be known. KPPI will close the deals next week.

KPPI has an estimated debt worth $70 million to its parent firm, the Kuok Group.

KPPI derives its financial strength from its strategic alliance with the Kuok Group of Singapore, a leading property developer in the Western Pacific Rim.

Yesterday, the Kuok Group unveiled its P3.5-billion high-rise luxury residential project dubbed St. Francis Towers near the Shangri-La Mall at the corner of Shaw Boulevard and St. Francis Street.

The development, the firm's second, is set for completion by 2008. Pre-selling started yesterday. Units range from between P2.3 million to P12 million.

Call center's Jan-Sept profits shoot up 150%

CALL CENTER PAXYS INC., FORmerly Fil Hispano Holdings Corp., said in a statement that its profits shot up 150 percent from January to September this year on growing demand for business process outsourcing services from the United States.

Paxys' net income reached a record P206.79 million during the nine-month period from P85.26 million during the same period last year. At this pace, Paxys is on its way to beat its P270 to P300 million income target for this year, the company said.

Paxys derives the bulk of its profits from its wholly owned subsidiary Advanced Contact Solutions Inc., which is expected to double its seats to 3,300 this year from 1,669 last year.

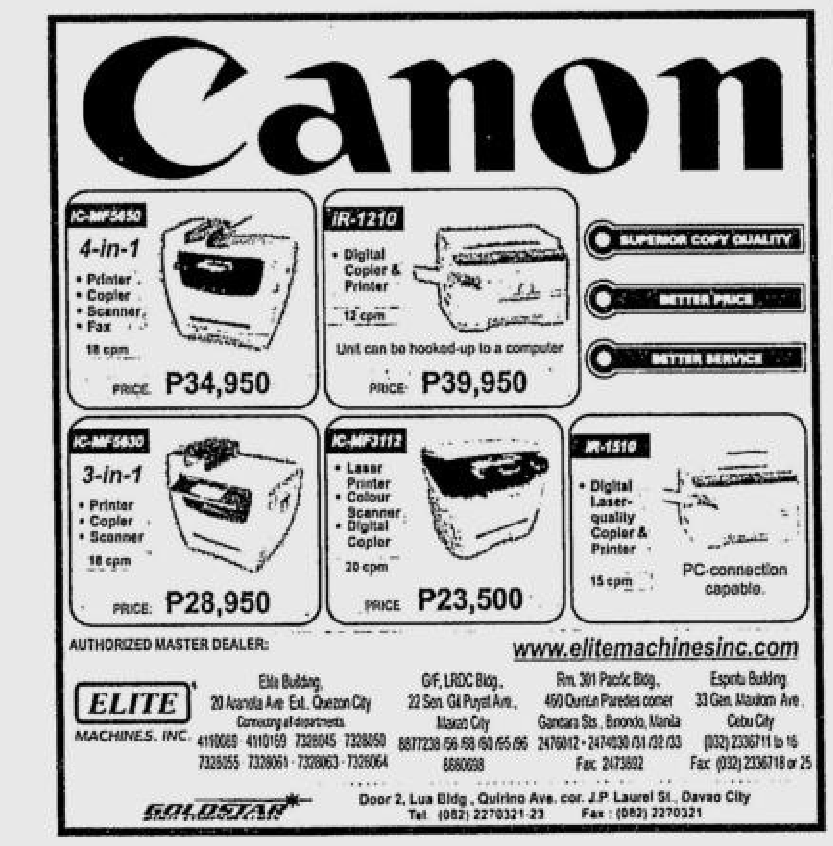
Paxys chair Tarcisio Medalla said the company sustained its rapid pace of growth from last year as more international companies got wind of ACS' quick start-up and efficient services.

Paxys expanded existing accounts and added one program from major US clients in the third quarter.

In that quarter, earnings hit P102.94 million this year from P36.06 million a year ago—almost triple the company's third quarter profits last year.

Operating expenses however expanded 30 percent to P164.60 million during the first nine months while service income rose by 110 percent to P950.59 million.

Paxys plans to diversify into advance data services and eventually get into IT outsourcing and other information technology solutions. *Elizabeth Sanchez*



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KING JAMES AUCTION CALENDAR

ON - SITE AUCTION
KALAYAAN ON - SITE AUCTION
ON-SITE ADDRESS : MANILA PEARL CORP.
#68 KALAYAAN AVE., QUEZON CITY
VIEWING DATES : NOVEMBER 9 - 10, 2005, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2005 (SAT), 10:30AM
CONSISTING OF EUROPEAN INSPIRED FURNITURES, RESTAURANT TABLES & CHAIRS, NARRA CONSOLE TABLE, NARRA SIDE TABLE, BED FRAME, FROST JAM FOOD CART, FOOD CONTAINERS, COMPUTER SETS & ACCESSORIES, OFFICE TABLES, HARDWARES, GLASSWARES, KITCHENWARES LAVATORIES, TOILET BOWL, GUITARS AND MANY MORE
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P 5,000.00

ON-SITE AUCTION
SCRAP METAL AUCTION
SITE ADDRESS : KING JAMES AUCTION PHILIPPINE HEADQUARTERS
777 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO. CRISTO,
PULILAN, BULACAN
VIEWING DATES : NOVEMBER 14 - 15, 2005, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2005 (WED), 10:30AM
450 TONS OF SCRAP METAL CONSISTING OF I-BEAMS, STEEL CHECKERED PLATES, ALUMINUM CHECKERED PLATES, (6) AIR COMPRESSOR, (2) GENERATOR, (6) WALK-IN CHILLER, COPPER WIRES, CONDUIT PIPES, STEEL TRUSSES, GI SHEETS, PURLINS, (2) ELEVATOR, COPPER WIRES, ALUMINUM, GATE VALVES, SS FOOD COUNTER, SS HIGH / LOW PRESSURE STOVE, SS PIZZA OVEN, (20) ASSTD. AIRCON (3/5/10 TONNER), SS SINGLE / TWIN TUB SINK, 1,000PCS. ASSTD. CERAMIC LAVATORY, IMPORTED FAUCETS, ORBIT FANS, & MANY MORE
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P 20,000.00

ON-SITE AUCTION
SCRAP METAL AUCTION
SITE ADDRESS : DR. A. DELOS SANTOS AVE., PHILACOR
DRIVE, SUCAT, PARANAQUE CITY
VIEWING DATES : NOVEMBER 16 - 17, 2005, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2005 (FRI), 10:30AM
CONSISTING OF 160 TONS I-BEAMS, (11,000PCS) GI SHEETS, TRUSSES, PURLINS, INDUSTRIAL LIGHTING FIXTURES, CONDUIT PIPES, GI PIPES, ROLL UP DOORS, STEEL DOORS, LUMBER, APPROX 2,000 TONS SCRAP METAL AND MANY MORE
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P 25,000.00

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Fee pulled power

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU can do as a consumer—particularly at this time when the prices of just about everything are going up—to lower this country's electricity rates, hailed as the second highest in all of Asia?

Fortunately, there is none. FORTUNATELY for Napocor, that is!

That's the state-owned electricity monopoly, which the law called Epira has been trying to dismantle for two years now by mandating Napocor to privatize its power plants.

By getting rid of Napocor, the law intends to create proper competition in the power sector. That's why Napocor is taking its sweet time, stalling the privatization. Napocor, in effect, is disobeying the law.

In your case, however, if you as much as disobey Mayor Lito Atienza's no-rally-zone policy, which is NOT even a law, you get the CPR.

* * *

ONE of the reasons for the delay in the privatization is said be the so-called Napocor mafia, a small group of "geniuses" in the company known for making money on the side.

Foreign investors have already documented their modus operandi, and they even relayed numerous reports to this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

Thus, not just a few of them now doubt, seriously, that this cute administration can abide by the Epira-mandated privatization thrust by next year.

A case in point is the Calaca power plant in Batangas. Either by design or because of pure incompetence, Napocor was ill prepared for the bidding of the plant.

For one, the plant's land titles were not available at the time, while interested buyers also searched in vain for records of real estate tax payments.

The permits to operate the plant were missing—and probably for a good reason. It was said that the Calaca plant's permit itself had expired.

And so, out of the four interested bidders, only one pushed through.

Down here in my barangay, we don't call it a bidding if there's only a single participant. Actually, we call it lutong macao!

For, how do you expect to sell multibillion-peso power plants that way? You can't even sell lumpiang hubad that way!

And all Napocor has to say to Goriaetta is, "look, ma, no bidders." How convenient!

* * *

IT does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that, if the interested buyers back out at the last minute, something must be wrong.

It could be, as I said, either by intent or out of stupidity.

As a result, Napocor is now forced to work in Congress on amendments to the Epira law, specifically to delay the privatization.

Yipeee! Happy days are here again! You see, it means that Napocor's small group of "geniuses" can continue with their big money sideline involving large industrial users of power.

Napocor still sells electricity directly to big industrial users. Word has it in the small power sector that, in such "direct connections," the geniuses make a lot of money through "under billings."

Guess what results from such "under billings?" Hint: It has something to do with losses.

Napocor losses, in turn, lead to high power rates which, again, are the second most expensive rates in Asia. Those losses are simply passed on fully to consumers in the form of higher power fees.

Oops, that should only hurt you again!

And that's why the Epira law, in all its wisdom, frowns upon such a practice. It is not good for competition. As such, it cannot benefit consumers.

For how can power distributors such as Meralco in Metro Manila, or the electric cooperatives in the provinces, compete with Napocor?

For one, neither Napocor nor the big time industrial users pay taxes in such arrangements. The rest of us simply just cannot escape taxes.

Is there anything you, as a consumer, can do to lower power rates? You wish!

RP producers take steps to corner $25-B market

By Christine A. Gaylican

LOCAL PRODUCERS OF ORGANic fertilizers are taking vital steps to tap the growing world organic food market valued at $25 billion.

Encarnacion P. Castillo, president of the Organic Fertilizer Manufacturers Association Inc., yesterday said that members of the group are willing to go through stricter and stiffer regulations in order to establish better product standards.

"This is the only means by which we can carve a bigger niche, and meet growing world demand," Castillo said during a national conference of organic producers.

She noted that better products will also allow wider local acceptance as Filipino farmers still prefer to use more expensive chemicals.

According to the Fertilizer and Pesticides Authority, the country's organic fertilizers produced in 2004 had hit 19,389 metric tons, while corresponding sales were pegged at 16, 235 metric tons.

"The entry of more players in organic fertilizers is a welcome development given the massive market potential and emerging demand for organically produced products," according to Dr. Wilma N. Obcemea of the agency's fertilizer regulatory division. "But quality should not be sacrificed for quantity."

Obcemea said fertilizers that would be sold commercially would be required to go through tests and approvals by the agency.

The Organic Certification Center of the Philippines (OCCP) is the official certifier of Philippine-made organic products distributed locally and for export.

The OCCP is the first and the only organic product certifier that is given the accreditation by the agency. With this accreditation, only farm produce having OCCP/DA seal of approval can claim to be certified organic.

The DA said that having an accredited organic certifier is necessary in tapping the growing market for organic products.

Globe net profit . . .

From page B1

pore Telecommunications Ltd. lost 1.2 million non-revenue subscribers in the third quarter and is expecting to weed out a million more unwanted customers this quarter.

Despite a lower subscriber base of 12.4 million against 13.6 million in end-June, Globe president Gerardo Ablaza said the remaining customers generated more revenue for the company.

Globe's revenue from the mobile business improved by 2 percent to P13.5 billion from a quarter ago. As a result, net income went up 87 percent in the third quarter from P1.19 billion in the second quarter.

"The drop in subscriber base has no impact on revenue. In fact, third-quarter revenue is better than the same quarter last year," Ablaza said in an interview.

Globe, the country's second-biggest carrier, said its revenue grew from July to September despite the various pricing promos it had offered as opposed to fierce rival Smart Communications Inc.

Globe's net income included P334 million in one-time gains related to improvements of the peso against the dollar. In the second quarter, the company registered P553 million in foreign exchange losses.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 9, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34	35	34	35	3,844,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59.5	61	59.5	60.5	1,412,600
China Banking Corp.	605	610	605	610	2,180
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	20	18	20	10,000
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.64	0.66	0.64	0.66	10,830,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50.5	52.5	50.5	52.5	291,500
International Exch. Bank	19.75	20.75	19.75	20.75	228,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	29.5	27	29	3,120,600
Philippine National Bank	31.5	32.5	31.5	32.5	61,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.5	110,500
Security Bank Corp.	30	31.5	29.5	31	1,436,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3000	3000	3000	3000	530
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	33,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2020	2025	2020	2025	2,860
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	15	16.25	15	16	308,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.97	1.02	0.97	1.02	8,760,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	720	730	720	730	184,880
Ipeople Inc.	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.75	55,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	3,500,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.2	3.45	3.2	3.4	15,329,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	25,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1770	1835	1770	1830	91,690
Ivantage Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.61	4,200,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	18,400,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	43,600
Manila Electric Co. B	22.25	22.75	22	22.5	3,093,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.8	6,586,000
Petron Corp.	3.75	4.05	3.75	4	12,525,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.8	1,095,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	480,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	400,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	200,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.55	3.6	2,992,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.62	0.65	0.62	0.65	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.65	3.6	3.6	107,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28	28	10,100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	39	39	38	38	147,200
Pancake House Inc.	2.85	3.05	2.85	3	458,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	26,500
San Miguel Corp. B	89.5	90	89.5	90	29,400
Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16	16.25	297,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	312.5	322.5	312.5	320	637,390
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5.2	5	5.1	5,310,000
Ajo.Net Holdings, Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	10,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	422,000
APC Group Inc.	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.25	890,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	2,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	310,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	15,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	550,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.16	1.1	1.16	29,705,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	60,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	210,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	3,760,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.65	3.3	3.6	6,609,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	750,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45	49.5	45	49.5	3,113,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.0625	0.0675	0.0625	0.0675	1,600,000
Ionics Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	180,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.7	3.6	3.7	4,100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.22	7,478,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.37	0.34	0.36	66,020,000
Paxys Inc.	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.2	1,916,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	2,050,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	66,000
SM Investments Corp.	238	243	238	243	212,910
South China Resources Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	200,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.4	0.45	0.4	0.45	60,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,000,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.125	0.13	12,200,000
Vivant Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	1,100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	44,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.76	0.75	0.76	130,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.0875	0.08	0.0875	7,800,000
Pryce Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.98	13,520,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.76	0.76	740,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	33	33	33	33	1,600
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	399,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	5,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,000,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	15.25	16.25	15.25	16.25	1,178,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.8	9	8.8	8.9	27,000
Far Eastern University	620	620	620	620	50
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.9	9.2	8.9	9.2	13,203,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.97	0.95	0.97	1,230,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	5,600,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	30,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.24	0.225	0.235	3,020,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	13,330,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.44	12,907,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.21	5,060,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,800,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6	6.2	6	6.2	1,279,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.17	220,000
SM Development Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.36	1.38	78,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.3	1,786,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.8	0.88	0.8	0.88	110,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	30,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	112,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	805,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	31,000
Benguet Corp. B	37	39	37	39	4,500
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.21	9,730,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	6,440,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	8,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	40,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	21,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.08	1.1	1.06	1.1	3,179,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.26	1.3	1.24	1.3	5,007,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	28.5	27.5	28	473,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.24	0.28	0.24	0.27	1,560,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	20,000,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	6,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4	4	3.95	4	229,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	13,810,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	140,000

CURRENCIES

November 9, 2005

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.848752	1.000000	54.6130
Japan	Yen	0.007240	0.008530	0.4658
United Kingdom	Pound	1.480394	1.744200	95.2560
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109460	0.128966	7.0432
Switzerland	Franc	0.647803	0.763242	41.6829
Canada	Dollar	0.716489	0.844167	46.1025
Singapore	Dollar	0.498855	0.587751	32.0988
Australia	Dollar	0.623762	0.734916	40.1360
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.251452	2.652661	144.8698
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.226153	0.266454	14.5519
Brunei	Dollar	0.497393	0.586029	32.0048
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000099	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.020631	0.024307	1.3275
UAE	Dirham	0.231085	0.272264	14.8692
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.178200	64.3450
Argentina	Peso	0.286257	0.337268	18.4192
Brazil	Real	0.385166	0.453803	24.7835
Denmark	Kroner	0.134033	0.157918	8.6244
India	Rupee	0.018564	0.021872	1.1945
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224698	0.264739	14.4582
Mexico	New Peso	0.079249	0.093371	5.0993
New Zealand	Dollar	0.579195	0.682408	37.2683
South Africa	Rand	0.126303	0.148810	8.1270
Korea	Won	0.000810	0.000954	0.0521
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025207	0.029699	1.6220

Stocks surge . . .

From page B1

Gainers led decliners 88 to 10, while 40 stocks were unchanged.

Gonzales said good profit results from index giants Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe Telecom Inc. in the third quarter also perked up sentiment among investors.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. recorded a third-quarter net profit of P8.21 billion, boosting its total earnings for the first nine months of the year to a record P25.03 billion.

"News of sustained earnings by listed companies encouraged more investors to participate in the market. The strong peso and euphoria over the recent implementation of the VAT triggered renewed interest (in equities)," said Astro Del Castillo, managing director of investment firm First Grade Holdings Inc.

10-month vehicle sales up 13%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ANTICIPATION OF INCREASED PRICES DUE TO the new expanded value-added tax law helped push vehicles sales higher in October, with 8,907 units sold or an increase of 13.2 percent from 7,866 units in the same month last year.

Official figures from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi) and the Truck Manufacturers Association showed that the industry sold a total of 80,843 in the first 10 months or 11.6 percent higher than the 72,409 sold a year ago.

Campi president Elizabeth H. Lee said in an interview that buyers' concern about the VAT affected sales starting September.

"The new VAT law and rising fuel prices are pushing up costs of doing business, which puts upward pressure on vehicle prices," Lee said.

The Campi and TMA report said that as of end-October, sales have reached 85 percent of the target of 95,000 units for 2005.

The groups expects growth in sales to be maintained for the rest of the year although Lee said they were holding on to the sales forecast.

Passenger car sales in the first 10 months rose 8.8 percent to 22,263 units from 18,508 last year. This was attributed to fleet deliveries, sustained financing promos and other marketing activities.

At the same time, commercial vehicle sales went up 13.4 percent due to sustained new model sales from the pickup, vans, compact SUV and AUV segments.

January-to-October sales of commercial vehicles grew to 51,031 units from 45,014 units.

All four sub-categories showed positive growth as AUV sales went up by 20 percent to 22,263 units; light commercial vehicles by 9 percent to 26,900 units; light trucks by 3 percent to 1,316 units; and trucks and buses by 30 percent to 552 units.

Toyota Motors Philippines Corp. kept the biggest portion of the overall market, with a 36-percent share. TMPC sold 29,126 units in the first 10 months or 19 percent higher than a year ago.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. ranked second with 13 percent of the market. MMPC sold 11,159 vehicles, which was an improvement of 6.4 percent.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. ranked third with a 10-percent share of the market. Honda sales reached 8,111 units, which was 10.5 percent lower than the previous level.

The report also showed that Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc.—the country's only exporter of completely built vehicles—shipped out 8,012 units in the first 10 months, up 17 percent from 6,849 units.

Teves . . .

From page B1

Teves declined to comment on the report about his having recommended Buñag for the top BIR post, saying it was a privilege information. But he said he would make a formal announcement next week.

Buñag has an extensive background in law. He placed second in the 1968 bar examination, graduated cum laude from the Ateneo Law School and worked in various law firms.

Meantime, Deputy Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares has submitted her resignation to Malacañang. Henares heads the BIR's Large Taxpayers Service (LTS), which is tasked to collect taxes from the country's biggest corporations. The LTS accounts for more than half of the BIR's collections.

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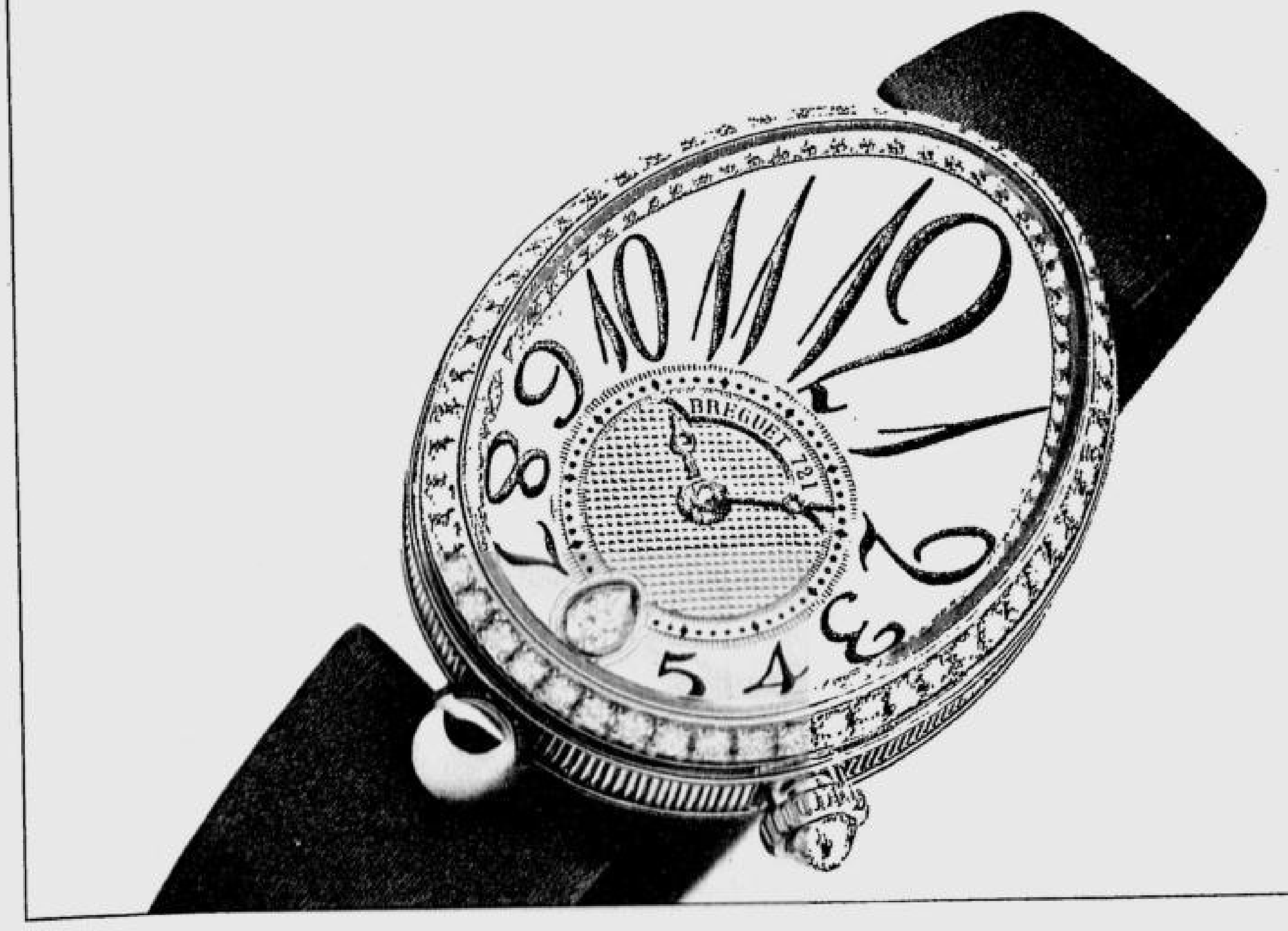

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845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

OBITUARIES

Manila Memorial Park
Leading the Way
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HOLY CROSS
DASMARIÑAS
CEBU
DAVAO
(632) 815-1875 or 90
(632) 893-8374 to 77
BULACAN

"Sino ang makapaghihiwalay sa atin sa pag-ibig ni Kristo?..."
Roma 8:35

Our Beloved

ISABELA ROQUE SY

Peacefully joined her Creator
*and her husband, **Ong Chiong Sy**,*
on November 7, 2005.

Her bereaved children

Romy (†) and **Carmelita**, **Ernie** and **Babie**, **Danny** and **Miroan**, **Nenita**, **Nato** and **Gloria**, **Sabsy**, and **Chito** and **Annie**, together with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, enjoin everyone to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Don Bosco Funeral Faith Chapel, A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Rd.) cor. Amorsolo St., Makati.

Funeral Mass at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, November 12, 2005 at the Don Bosco Church.

Interment follows at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

(In lieu of flowers, donations to the Don Bosco Center of Studies for their Scholarship Program in Catechetics and Youth Ministry will be deeply appreciated.)

Our Dearly Beloved

Libertad dela Rosa Lontok - Ordoñez

of Iba, Zambales and Marikina City born on June 17, 1922
has peacefully joined her Creator on November 06, 2005
at the age of 83.

Her bereaved husband **Brig. Gen. Mariano G. Ordoñez** (†); children **Marianne** and **Chris**; **Marilyn** and **Ban**; **Bong** and **Fely**; **Digi** (†) and **Baby**; and **Mauryn** and **Victor**; grandchildren and great-grandchildren and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of our beloved mother **"Betty"**.

Her remains lie in state at the Christ the King Church,
Chapel C, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.
Funeral Mass will be on Saturday,
November 12, 2005, 9:00 a.m.

Interment will follow at the
Himlayan Memorial Park,
Tandang Sora, Quezon City
after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Engr. Amado Tejada Correa

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 19, 2005 at his home in Riverwoods IL., USA. He was born on September 20, 1919 in Sta. Cruz, Manila, the only son of Domingo and Felicidad Correa. He was an Electrical and Mechanical Engineer and was a pioneer in the rural electrification of the Philippines. He continued to work as a Senior Information Specialist at the Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago, IL., USA until his illness.

Purificacion Santos Correa

Peacefully joined our Lord on December 20, 2000. She was born on February 17, 1920 in Tondo, Manila, the daughter of **Venancio** and **Gertrudes Santos**. She was a dedicated public servant, an educator and a school administrator at the Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology.

They are survived by their children **Fidel** and **Socorro**, **Patricio** and **Victoria**, **Margarita**, **Maria Corazon**, **Nestor** and **Susan** and **Malou** (†), **Camilo** and **Minda**, **Roque** and **Carlota**, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and sister **Concepcion Leonor**. The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of their souls.

Their remains lie in state from November 10-11, 2005 at the Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on Saturday, November 12, 2005 at the North Cemetery, Manila after the 10:30 a.m. Mass at the Sta. Perpetua Church, 280 D. Tuazon Ave., Quezon City.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ELADIO "Ely" NASOL FAJARDO

of
Imus, Cavite and Alfonso, Cavite
January 16, 1920 – October 29, 2005

Wish to express our deepest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers; attended vigils; sent flowers, foods & letters of sympathy; gave donations; spent precious time with us and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us during our time of bereavement.

OBITUARIES

Maria Paz Ong Tiu-Laurel

has peacefully returned to her Creator on November 7, 2005 at the age of 86.

Her beloved husband **VICTOR**, her loving children **FRANCIS & BELLA, HENRY & MARY ANN, CELY & ROBERT, SUSAN & TOTOY, HENSON & MILA, HERMAN & TIKS, HARRY & JOSIE, HERBERT & JEIL, HOWARD & NANETTE, JUDY**, grandchildren, & great-grandchildren mourn her passing and wish her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor Chapel,
Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 15, 2005, at The Heritage Memorial Park in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City after the 9:00 AM Mass.

PATRICK DAVID HUI LAO

July 26 1979 – November 8, 2005

Beloved son of **David & Helen Lao**
Beloved brother of **Michelle, Michael & Mark**
Beloved Uncle & Godfather of **Nathan**

The family requests prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc., 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City

Cremation will follow after the 9:00 AM Mass on Saturday, November 12, 2005.

CLASSIFIEDS

DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on November 24, 2005, 2:00 p.m., 12th Floor, Suite 4, of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
AM-JA-260	Bo. Pinalagad, Malinta, Valenzuela City	42,242 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-90041)	P 20,000,000.00
BULACAN			
AM-RT-261	Lot 1, Blk. 1, Grotioville Homes, Brgy. Gaya-Gaya (now Brgy. Graceville, San Jose Del Monte	49 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-370563) with bldg. & imp.	P 370,700.00
DAVAO	Kristina Homes Subd., Lizada, Toril, Davao City	Residential lots with bldg. & imp.:	
AM-RT-262	Lot 23 Blk 1	110 m² TCT No. T-347755	P 126,600.00
AM-RT-263	Lot 35 Blk 3	110 m² TCT No. T-347752	P 126,600.00
AM-RT-264	Lot 4 Blk 5	110 m² TCT No. T-347750	P 126,600.00
AM-RT-265	Lot 34 Blk 3	110 m² TCT No. T-347748	P 126,600.00
AM-RT-266	Lot 18 Blk 5	110 m² TCT No. T-347754	P 126,600.00
AM-RT-267	Lot 37 Blk 3	110 m² TCT No. T-347753	P 126,600.00
AM-RT-268	Lot 15 Blk 5	110 m² TCT No. T-347749	P 126,600.00
LAGUNA			
AM-RT-269	Lot 9 Blk. 8, St. Joseph Village 6, Phase 1, Butong, Cabuyao	47 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-616407) with bldg. & imp.	P 229,000.00
NUEVA ECIJA	Vista Amor Subd., Bangad, Cabanatuan City	Residential lots with bldg. & imp.	
AM-RT-270	Lot 45 Blk 2	100 m² TCT No. T-116963	P 282,600.00
AM-RT-271	Lot 7 Blk 2	100 m² TCT No. T-116962	P 333,800.00
AM-RT-272	Lot 16 Blk 1	100 m² TCT No. T-116960	P 297,100.00
AM-RT-273	Lot 7 Blk 7	100 m² TCT No. T-116961	P 297,100.00
AM-RT-274	Lot 21 Blk 2	100 m² TCT No. T-114462	P 257,600.00
AM-RT-275	Lot 19 Blk 2	100 m² TCT No. T-118074	P 273,200.00
AM-RT-276	Lot 13 Blk 2	100 m² TCT No. T-118072	P 307,000.00
AM-RT-277	Lot 27 Blk 2	100 m² TCT No. T-118071	P 297,100.00
AM-RT-278	Lot 15 Blk 1	100 m² TCT No. T-118073	P 292,900.00
PAMPANGA			
AM-PY-279	Bo. San Isidro, Minalin	21,408 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-587529-R) with bldgs. & imp.	P 13,900,000.00
CHATTELS			
AM-PY-280	Dalahican Port, Lucena City	M/T "COS ODYSSEY", an ABS-classed self-propelled coconut oil tanker, welded mild steel hull, single deck, 496.64 tons-GT, 315.36 tons-NT, built 1998, powered by 2-units CATERPILLAR Marine Diesel Engine with standard accessories and navigational equipment	P 78,942,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158/2159.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – November 10 & 11, 2005)

Schools First Means Students First

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROCUREMENT SERVICE
5th Floor. Mabini Bldg. DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 636-65-43; Telefax No. 6366542, 633-93-43
Website: http://www.DepED.gov.ph; E-mail: deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com

DepED
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(RE-BID)

The Department Of Education Division Offices, through its Division Bids and Awards Committees (BAC's), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT : Supply and Delivery of Elementary Tables & Chairs and Secondary Armchairs
LOCATION : Various Division Offices of the Department of Education
BRIEF DESCRIPTION : Lot A : Elementary Tables & Chairs (CY2004)
Lot B: Secondary Armchairs (CY2004)
Lot C: Elementary Tables & Chairs (CY2005)
Lot D: Secondary Armchairs (CY2005)
ABC & FUNDING SOURCE : Funding Source is the Government of the Philippines (GOP), CY2004 and CY2005 General Appropriations Act (GAA) (75% Allocation)
CONTRACT DURATION : One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
DELIVERY SITES : "Door to door" delivery to various recipient schools (See Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents)

PROCURING ENTITY		APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)							
		CY 2004				CY 2005			
DepED Division Office	Address (See Deped Website for details)	Lot A (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot B (Secondary Arm Chairs)		Lot C (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot D (Secondary Arm Chairs)	
		Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount
REGION I		0		0		154	184,800.00	400	220,000.00
ALAMINOS CITY	Alaminos City	-	-	-	-	154	184 800 00	400	220,000 00
REGION III		4100	4,920,000.00	2447	1,345,850.00	7920	9,504,000.00	4999	2,749,450.00
BULACAN	Malolos, Bulacan	4100	4,920,000 00	2447	1,345,850 00	7920	9,504,000 00	4999	2,749 450 00
REGION IV-B		285	342,000.00	1565	860,750.00	438	525,600.00	4360	2,398,000.00
ROMBLON	Romblon, Romblon	285	342,000 00	1565	860,750 00	438	525,600 00	4360	2,398,000 00
REGION VII		128	115,200.00	290	130,500.00	136	122,400.00	735	330,750.00
SIQUIJOR	Larena, Siquijor	128	115,200 00	290	130,500 00	136	122,400 00	735	330,750 00
REGION VIII		750	900,000 00	1,071	589,050.00	2,250	2,700,000.00	2,683	1,475,650.00
EASTERN SAMAR	Borongan, Eastern Samar	750	900,000 00	1,071	589,050.00	2,250	2,700,000 00	2,683	1,475,650 00
REGION XII		1440	1,728,000.00	925	508,750.00	3144	3,772,800.00	2750	1,512,500.00
KORONADAL CITY	Koronadal City, South Cotabato			425	233 750 00		-	727	399 850 00
SARANGANI	Alabel, Sarangani	1440	1,728,000 00	500	275,000 00	3144	3,772,800 00	2023	1,112,650 00
GRAND TOTAL -		6703	8,005,200.00	6298	3,434,900.00	14042	16,809,600.00	15927	8,686,350 00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Biddeers of the Bidding Documents

The DepED Division Offices will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on **November 24, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Division Offices.**

Bids must be received on or before **December 5, 2005. 10:00 a.m. at the Division Office.** Late Bids shall be rejected.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Lot shall be rejected.

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of not more than **Two Thousand Pesos Only (Php2,000.00)** to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Department of Education, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders

(Sgd.) Atty. MACUR MAROHOMBSAR
BAC, Vice Chairman

(PDI–November 10 & 17, 2005)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-296	200 units Dot Matrix Printers	P 6,300,000.00	LBP Funds
2005-312	256 units Document Scanner with Bundled Software and PC	26,332,160.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements are scheduled on November 23, 2005 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon **payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 and P3,000.00 for ITB Nos. 2005-296 and 2005-312, respectively.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **November 11, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI--Nov. 3 & 10, 2005)

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE

Please be informed that the following properties of the Home Guaranty Corporation are being offered for negotiated sale:

PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	SELLING PRICE	REMARKS
LAS PINAS					
1. Blk. 26 Unit 11 Faith Lane Christianville Subd. Talon, Cinco, Las Pinas City	Townhouse	42.00	35.00	504,900.00	with illegal occupant
2. Blk. 5 Unit 13 Alley 4 Casimiro Townhomes III St. Joseph Subd Pulang Lupa Dos, Las Pinas City	Townhouse	42.00	60.00	576,400.00	with illegal occupant
QUEZON CITY					
1. No. 81 Sampaloc St., Mapayapa Village I, Bgy. Pasong Tamo, Capitol, Q.C.	House & Lot	709.50	432.00	8,131,200.00	with illegal occupant

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION AT 896-04-25, 897-31-59, 897-32-90 OR VISIT OUR OFFICE AT JADE BLDG. NO. 335 GIL PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
GERALDINE P. NICDAO - QUEZON CITY AREA

(Sgd.) RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS
OIC-VICE PRESIDENT
PROJECT MANAGEMENT/ACQUIRED
ASSETS DISPOSITION GROUP

(PDI - Nov. 10, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
10th Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 1, Butuan City

MARIA CAROL V. JANER-YASUMURO,
Petitioner,
Versus-
TERUO YASUMURO, Respondent
X---X

SP. PROC. NO. 2490
For:
DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE

ORDER
(Summons for Publication)

This is a petition for declaration of absolute nullity of marriage/annulment of married filed on September 28, 2005.

The principal ground relied on by the herein petitioner is that the petitioner was sweet-talked by the respondent into marrying him. The petitioner in this case prays to the Court for a declaration that:

The marriage between the parties be nullified/declared a nullity for the reasons cited in the petition

In the Order of the Court dated October 18, 2005, the Court granted the motion of the petitioner to effect service of summons on respondent by publication.

Wherefore, petitioner is ordered to cause the publication of the Summons once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Respondent Teruo Yasumuro is hereby ordered to answer the herein Petition within sixty (60) days from the last date of publication.

SO ORDERED.

Butuan City, Philippines, October 18, 2005.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO S. CASALS
Judge

(PDI-Nov. 3 & 10, 2005)

AUCTION

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On View: Monday, 14th November 2005 from 9:00am to 5:00pm and morning of sale day
At.: Ignacio Complex, 404 Amang Rodriguez Avenue, Manggahan, Pasig City
Refundable Deposit: Php5,000 (upon registration)

For further information please contact Jeric Cupin at
Tel: 852 2910/11 loc. 110 Email: jeric.cupin@henrybutcher.com

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Center for Pop Music lines up major events

THE CENTER FOR POP MUSIC PHILIPPINES leads the line up of performers at the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) 26th Agora Awards on Nov. 10 at Makati Shangri-la Hotel.

Together with the Center for Pop Music Philippines singing talents, the 26th Agora Awards also features a serenade from John Lesaca and the Philippine Baranggay Folk Dance Troupe.

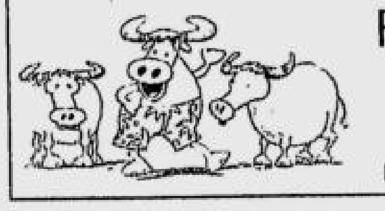
Coinciding with the PMA's Agora Awards, the Center for Pop Music Philippines is sponsoring the launching of Quezon City government's "4th Christmas Chorale Competition, 2005" on Nov. 10, at 4 pm at the Entertainment Plaza, SM City North Edsa, Q.C.

Spearheaded by QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte and Vice-Mayor Herbert Bautista, the choral competition is hosted by Butch Albarracin, founder and president of the Center for Pop Music Philippines.

Center for Pop Music Philippines also announces its other major events lined-up for this month: mini-concert on Nov. 12 and 13 at the Storyland, SM Southmall in Las Pinas; mall shows on Nov. 18 and 20 at Robinson's Place Pioneer in Mandaluyong City; mall shows on November 19 and 26 at Ali Mall Activity Center, Cubao.

"Evening With the Best" on Nov. 20 at Boysie's Music Bar in Malate, Manila; Pop Icon grand finals on Nov. 26 at Robinson's Place at Novaliches, Q.C., mini-concert on Nov. 26 and 27 at the Star City, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila; series of concerts on Nov. 13, 20, 26 and 27 at Arkdia Music Bar in Malate, Manila.

Information regarding the above-mentioned events may be obtained from the Center for Pop Music Philippines head office at 73 Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, QC with tel. nos. 723-9373 or 721-0731 or 411-7310 (c/o Coach Joey Llamado).



From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
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JOB Market

Gov't planning to reactivate anti-smuggling agency

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMmitted to reactivate the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Anti-smuggling, heeding calls from local firms whose viability is being threatened by the influx of contrabands into the local market.

Jesus L. Arranza, president of the Federation of Philippine Industries, said in an interview that Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves had promised FPI officials in a recent meeting that he would take steps in reconvening the Cocas.

"The FPI has been urging the government to revive the committee and, this time, the finance secretary would be at the helm," Arranza said.

"Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes told us that his department would continue supporting Cocas efforts even if it was no longer the lead of the body," the FPI chief added.

Arranza said Teves had promised to convene the DOF-led Cocas "as soon as possible."

The Cocas was created in March 2004 under Executive Order No. 297 and was originally headed by the interior secretary.

The other members of the oversight committee are the secretaries of national defense, justice, agriculture, trade and industry, and transportation and communication.

"The revival of the Cocas is one of the several recommendations we submitted (to Teves) which we feel would solve our problems related to smuggling," Arranza said.

FPI's proposals also include the Bureau of Customs establishing a base of the values and classifications of all imported cargoes that would be updated regularly. This would help in apprehending undervalued shipments.

The BOC was also urged to validate accredited importers to weed out fictitious or fly-by-night importers.

FPI also proposed the conduct of a review of existing customs bonded warehouses to prevent illegal importers and smugglers from using these facilities.

Fourth is for the BOC to require shipping lines to furnish it a copy of inward foreign manifest, which would alert the bureau of incoming shipments and prevent the tampering of the bills of lading.

Fifth is for the Bureau of Internal Revenue to strictly implement the law requiring the issuance of official receipts, which would help determine whether shipments are legal.

Finally, FPI sought the passage into law of the anti-smuggling bill that had passed third reading in the House committee on ways and means.

DAILY PRICE MONITORING
Trade Secretary Peter Favila said the impact on the prices of prime commodities of the value-added tax law was minimal. He made this observation after conducting a price monitoring operation at the Kamuning Public Market with Vice President Noli de Castro.

Insular, Mapfre announce merger of non-life insurance businesses

By Doris C. Dumlao

SPANISH FINANCIAL GROUP MAPFRE AND local insurance giant Insular Life signed a deal to merge their Philippine non-life insurance businesses to create the country's eighth biggest non-life insurer.

The surviving company, Mapfre Insular Insurance Corp., will be 75-percent owned by Corporacion Mapfre, while the remaining 25 percent will be owned by Insular Life.

The merger will be subject to the approval of local regulatory authorities.

Luis La O, chair and CEO of Mapfre Asian said: "The merger presents an opportunity to leverage Insular Life's sales and agency network and other allied distribution channels to market our products."

"Mapfre Asian is evidently focused on becoming one of the country's leading non-life companies. It has gained considerable market share during the last few years. Also, Mapfre Asian has a culture similar to Insular Life, and so for these reasons we are pleased to merge our two businesses," said Vicente Aylion, chair and CEO of Insular Life.

The consolidated assets of the merged entity will be P1.8 billion while equity will increase to around P900 million.

Insular Life's Insular General Insurance Co. (I-Gen) offers general insurance for financial protection and risk management, offering products and services covering fire and allied perils, motor car, marine cargo, liability and accident insurance and bonds.

I-Gen was able to write P190.7 million in gross premium in 2004. Retainable motor and fire portfolio accounted for 65 percent and 30 percent of total premiums, respectively.

AYLLON

Parent company Insular Life is the third largest life insurance company in the country and the pioneer domestic life insurance company. It has a network of more than 100 branch offices nationwide with 2004 consolidated total assets of P41.4 billion and net income of P1.06 billion.

Mapfre is an international financial group based in Spain with an asset base of $30 billion. The group is engaged in insurance, fund management, and reinsurance, and has extensive operations in 39 countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia with over 3,800 offices and close to 20,000 employees.

In 2004, its total revenues amounted to $12.7 billion and net profits to $660 million. It carries a strong "AA " credit rating from Standard & Poor's.

Security Bank, BPI top FX Poll

SECURITY BANK Corp. and Bank of the Philippine Islands topped Asiamoney's recent FX Poll.

Poll votes, collected from treasurers, finance directors and managers of local and multinational companies in the Philippines, focused on four categories: FX services, FX sales, single electronic trading platform, and innovative FX products and structured ideas.

Among the banks cited, Security Bank and BPI consistently topped the following categories: Best in FX Sales, (BPI was first, followed by Security Bank); Best Single Electronic Trading Platform (topped by SBC with BPI coming in next); Best for Innovative FX Products and Structured Ideas (SBC was first, BPI was second, and Best Domestic Provider of FX Services (BPI was first, SBC was fourth).

The other Philippine banks cited in the FX Polls were: Metrobank, Equitable PCIBank, Banco de Oro, UCPB and Unionbank.

In the meantime, Security Bank was cited by Asiamoney, as the "Best Domestic Provider for Local Currency-Linked Products" in its 2nd Annual Structured Products Poll in survey results released in August.

Asiamoney, a leading financial publication launched in 1989, has been publishing reports and analyses on the financial and investment markets for capital issuers, borrowers, institutional investors and senior corporate and government monetary decision makers with business interests in the Asia-Pacific countries.

TransCo
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

Section I. Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Three Phase Test Equipment
(Reference No.: PB050909-EL0089)

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO) through the CY2005 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board intends to apply the sum of PHP 14,000,000.00* being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Three Phase Test Equipment. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The TRANSCO-HO now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Supply and Delivery of 3 Phase Test Equipment*. Delivery of the GOODS is required as listed below. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, **starting November 10, 2005 to December 9, 2005 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00)*. The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The TRANSCO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **November 30, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.** at same address below.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or **before 2:00 P.M. of December 12, 2005.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Php 140,000.00
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Php 210,000.00
3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php 350,000.00
4. Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC)	Php 14,000,000.00

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on **December 12, 2005 / 2:00 P.M.** at the *Admin Conference Room same address below*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road,
Diliman, Quezon City.
Tel. No. (632) 9812235 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - November 10 & 17, 2005)

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*To join, initially send **PDI<space>20<space>answer<space>name/address/age/gender** to **29768.** Ex.: **PDI 20 ANSWER Jonah Imperial/#1 Paco St., Makati/22/F.** For succeeding answers, the registered subscriber simply sends **PDI<space>20<space>answer to 29768.** Each entry sent is P2.50. Each participant is allowed a maximum of 3 entries per day.

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See print ads and flyers for complete details.

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region XIV, Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority, Regional Office XIV, through the Grains Operating Fund intends to apply the sum of Eight Million Ninety Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Six & 28/100 (P8,099,776.28) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Services of Sixty Seven (67) Security Guards for deployment in the following installations:

Place of Deployment	No. Of Guards	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost
Maguindanao	20	192,545.65	2,310,547.8
Cotabato City	18	199,435.47	2,393,225.67
Lanao Sur	4	38,509.13	462,109.56
Marawi City	9	90,454.58	1,085,455.01
Sulu	8	77,018.26	924.219.12
Tawi-Tawi	8	77,018.26	924,219.12

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in the Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

PARTICULAR	DATE/TIME/VENUE
Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents	October 28 - November 10 2005/ 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM / NFA XIV, ORC Cotabato City
Submission of Letter of Intent	November 14, 2005 NLT 12:00 NOON
Pre-Bidding Conference	November 14, 2005 / @ 1:00 PM/ NFA RO XIV Conference Room, Cotabato City
Deadline for the submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	November 28, 2005/@ 1:00 PM / NFA XIV, Cotabato City
Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	November 28, 2005/@ 1:30 PM, NFA XIVConference Room, Cotabato City

A complete sets of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC XIV Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Twenty thousand pesos (Php 20,000.00) from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM beginning October 28, 2005. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the amount and form as enumerated under Section 27.2 of IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Provincial Manager/BAC XIV Vice Chairman Mr. Kitem P. Kadatuan or Supervising Enforcement and Investigation Officer/BACXIV Member Mr. Nelson P. Sañada.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGIONAL OFFICE XIV
Asst Regional Director Ofelia M. Sero
ORC Complex, Cotabato City
(064) 421-24-07, Fax (064) 421-21-28
nfa14orc@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) **OFELIA M. SERO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 27 & Nov. 10, 2005)

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Chair, PSCA-Board of Trustees
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Tel. No. (02) 6874647
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DR. ISABELA L. MAHLER
CHED Director IV, Region VI
Chairperson, Search Committee for PSCA Presidency
Washington St., Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. Nos. (033) 320-69-76 or (033) 508-88-52

LOURDES M. PECHAYCO
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Ethanol prospects draw in int'l investors

Foreign firms seen to forge partnerships with Philippine sugar industry players

By Abigail L. Ho

JAPANESE FIRM MARUBENI CORP., Hong Kong-based Asiagen Power, and several other foreign groups are keen on investing in the country's ethanol sector, mostly in the establishment of co-generation facilities that will serve both as distillery and power generation plants.

In a briefing yesterday, House committee on natural resources vice chair and Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri said Marubeni wanted to participate in the construction of the San Carlos Bio-Energy Inc. (SCBI) plant in Negros Occidental as a contractor.

Eyeing five different areas, the firm also wants to be part of another proposed plant in Bukidnon, as well as other plants to be put up elsewhere in Negros, he said.

"They're now interested mainly in being the builder of the plants, but they're also looking at being co-owners of plants," he said.

Asiagen wants to use ethanol to run its existing bunker-fired generation facility here, but the high cost of ethanol imported from Brazil is hampering this plan, he said.

The landed cost of ethanol from Brazil is still high at P25 per liter.

"But if they own the plant, they can produce ethanol at a cost of only P18 per liter," Zubiri said. "They can use this to run their plant."

For this potential project, he said Asiagen would look at the possibility of partnering with a local sugar industry player for its feedstock supply.

The Philippine Fuel Ethanol Alliance is actually working on matching firms interested in putting up ethanol plants with members of the local sugar industry.

According to Zubiri, the country needs at least P15 billion in plant investments over the next two years if it hopes to meet the 5-percent ethanol blending requirement contained in the recently passed House bill on biofuels.

This amount will be enough to establish 10 co-generation facilities in various parts of the country, he said.

By 2010, the country may need another P15 billion in investments to put up 10 more plants, he added.

Some good investment sites for ethanol plants may be found in Tarlac, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Cagayan Valley, Batangas, Cebu, Negros, Bukidnon and Davao, he said.

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LifeStyle

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One man's passion

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

I HAD THE PLEASURE to meet Jonathon Ashmore a few months back and was fortunate enough to have been given the time to spend an afternoon to chat and be pampered with a meal personally cooked by him.

Ashmore's love for cooking began as a teenager helping his parents in their small restaurant in Oklahoma. A 32-year career in hospital administration with the Department of Veterans' Affairs provided him the opportunity to learn about local cuisine all over the United States. An assignment to the United States Embassy in Manila for six years enabled him to travel and learn French and Vietnamese dishes in Vietnam, Chinese cooking in Hong Kong, Thai cuisine in Thailand, and Filipino dishes in the Philippines.

Retirement provided the opportunity to follow his true passion and open Les Vignobles gourmet specialties, a wholesale bakery and catering business.

Jon specializes in customizing products for his customers and continues to develop the line of dessert bars, cookies and dessert breads for Nordstrom Espresso bars in northern California, once even granting a client's request for a dessert buffet featuring desserts from around the world.

Rather than providing set menus for catering, he works with his clients to develop the perfect menus for their specific needs. He does breakfast buffets, afternoon teas and wedding receptions, even providing services such as full-service meals, pickups, boxed lunches and desserts.

For those lucky enough to be in California, call Jon at (916)7867675 or e-mail LesVignobles@aol.com for your next event.

Baked gifts

May I please have recipes for Christmas baked goods? I like to save money by making gifts and maybe earn extra income.

JANICE NOLIDO

Homemade treats make wonderful gifts for the holidays. Not only are they delicious, they also let the recipient know that you care enough to make something especially for them. The following recipes "from the heart" are some of my friends' and family's favorites.

From Jonathon Ashmore

Deluxe Chocolate Chip Cookies

1 c rolled oats, ground in a food processor or blender until very fine
1 c all-purpose flour
½ tsp baking powder
½ tsp baking soda
½ tsp salt
4 oz butter
½ c packed brown sugar
½ c granulated sugar
1 large egg
½ tsp vanilla extract
8 oz semi-sweet chocolate chips
½ c sweetened shredded coconut
¾ c walnuts or pecans, chopped

Preheat oven 350 ºF. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper. Whisk ground oats, flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt in a bowl. Set aside.

Beat butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg, vanilla, continue beating until well-combined. Add dry ingredients, mix until combined. Add chocolate chips, coconut, nuts, stir until combined.

Form dough into balls about 1 ¾ inches in diameter. Place dough balls onto cookie sheet leaving about 2 inches between them.

Bake 15-18 minutes until edges begin to crisp but centers are still soft.

Cool cookies on sheet for 2-3 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to finish cooling.

Peanut Butter Cookies

2 ½ c all-purpose flour
½ tsp baking soda
½ tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
½ pound butter
1 c brown sugar
1 c granulated sugar
1 c crunchy peanut butter
2 large eggs
2 tsp vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350 ºF. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper. Sift flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt in a medium bowl. Beat butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar in a large bowl until light and fluffy.

Beat peanut butter until incorporated, add eggs and vanilla. Stir in dry ingredients.

Form dough into balls about 1 ¾ inches in diameter. Place dough balls onto cookie sheet leaving about 2 inches between them.

Press dough balls with back of a fork to make a criss-cross design.

Bake 10-12 minutes until edges begin to crisp but centers are still soft.

Cool cookies on sheet for 4

ONE MAN'S/ C4

Jon Ashmore specializes in customizing products for his customers

JONATHON Ashmore (right) delivering his sweet temptations to a Nordstrom Espresso bar

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TOYOTA CLASSICS
A World of Harmony
Zoltán Nyári
tenor
Dániel Vadász
tenor
Mónika Fischl
soprano
Zsuzsa Kalocsai
soprano
Operett MUSICAL
BUDAPEST OPERETTA THEATRE
Miklós-Gábor Kerényi
artistic director
István Silló
conductor
Alegria Ocampo Ferrer
soprano

Join us for a glorious night of Hungarian operettas.

In 2005, the 16th Toyota Classics brings you something entirely new and infinitely exciting – Hungarian operetta, which offers magnificent performances of singing, dancing and instrumentals reflecting exquisite Hungarian culture. This year's tour is performed by the Budapest Operetta Theatre Orchestra, conducted by István Silló and features soprano Zsuzsa Kalocsai, winner of the TZ Rose award in Munich, Germany, and tenor Zoltán Nyári, recipient of the Mari Jászai Award. The concert will also present a solo performance from renowned Filipina soprano, Ms. Alegria Ocampo Ferrer. Come, join the Toyota Classics and enjoy an unforgettable musical experience with one of Europe's finest operettas.

Toyota Classics 2005

November 13, 2005 | 6:30 PM, Sunday
The Cultural Center of the Philippines, Main Theater

Tickets available at TicketWorld Outlets in major National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Department Store (Malate and Galleria), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum (Virra Mall, Greenhills) and on the TicketWorld website found at www.ticketworld.com.ph. Call 891-5610 for inquiry and reservation.

TICKET PRICES : Parterre ₱12,000/box • Lower Boxes ₱10,000/box • Upper Boxes ₱8,000/box • Orchestra Center ₱1,200 • Orchestra Side ₱1,000 • Balcony Center ₱500 • Balcony Side ₱300

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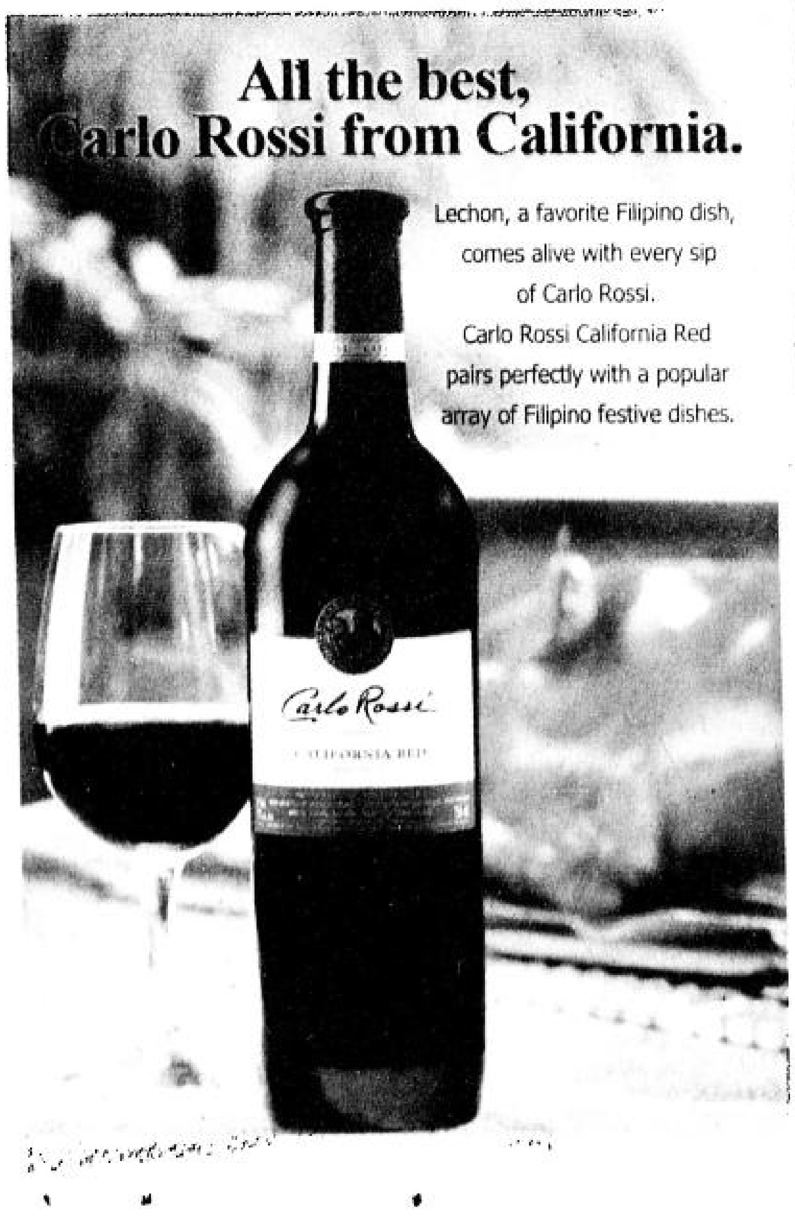
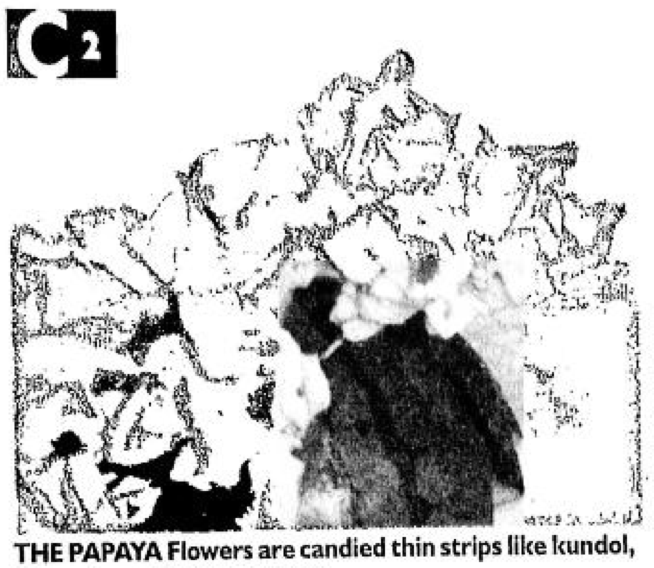

All the best, Carlo Rossi from California.

Lechon, a favorite Filipino dish, comes alive with every sip of Carlo Rossi. Carlo Rossi California Red pairs perfectly with a popular array of Filipino festive dishes.



THE PAPAYA Flowers are candied thin strips like kundol, the center stuffed with yema.

LUMPIANG ubod can be appetizer or main course.

PORK innards greet guests in the *batchoy* section.

Iloilo hometown favorites

WILSON Esperanilla and Maridel Uygongco, Iloilo chefs

By Michaela Fenix
Contributor

WHAT A PLEASURE TO SEE Maridel Uygongco again and to taste her cooking! The food and beverage manager of the Amigo Terrace Hotel in Iloilo was my source for a book that featured, among others, the cuisine of Iloilo. She also provided me the recipes of the traditional dishes of her province.

Cooking becomes her. She looks not a day older since we last met some five years ago. This time, she cooks for Makaon Ta, the Iloilo Food Festival at the Café Jeepney of the InterContinental Hotel Manila until Nov. 13. With her are fellow chefs Wilson Esperanilla, William Gamilong and Giovanni Berber.

Like La Paz

The *batchoy* section greets guests coming into the café. It is like walking into the La Paz market with pork innards, including the liver, displayed prominently. It gives a touch of authenticity though it might shock foreigners.

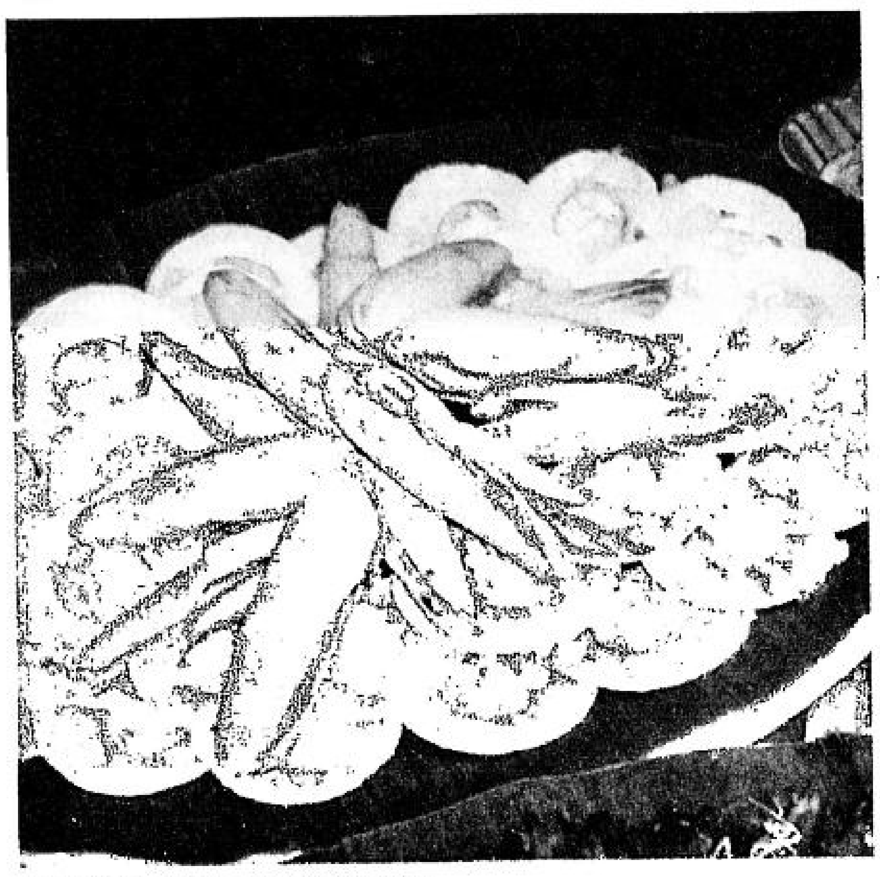
In every tasting, there is always something new to me. This time it is the barbecued *obre*, pig's mammary glands. The *obre* tastes milky as it should.

My dining mates cannot believe the *obre* comes from a lactating pig.

Seafood lovers will delight in the fresh seafood such as *diwal* (angel's wings) scallops, *managat* (black snapper) and huge prawns. These are at the grill stations because fresh seafood should be cooked simply.

While the buffet partitions food according to courses, Filipino cooking doesn't distinguish between appetizers or main courses or salads. So you can start with the main course, for instance, and eat the salads with the appetizers.

The *empanada* and the famous *lumpiang ubod* are in the vegetable section. The *lumpia* is said to have been invented in Silay City (Negros Occidental), which is considered a cousin province to Iloilo because many settlers in the general area of Bacolod came from Iloilo. Someone asking for the *lumpia* sauce is told the original *lumpiang ubod* always has the sauce within the roll.



DIWAL and scallops at the grill section

Appetizers

The pickled *ubod* and *mangarachada* (pickled mango) are both appetite-enhancers and appeasers of sated palates.

Binacol, soup made with native chicken (*manok* Bisaya), is a bit sweetish because of the *buko* but always refreshing.

In the main course area are two vegetable dishes that must be tasted. The *laswa*, my new favorite boiled vegetable dish, is composed of the *alugbati* (Malabar spinach) flavored with *labog*, a vine used as a souring agent, Uygongco informs me. A little further down is *ohong guisado*, mushrooms steamed with *patola*, the watery sauce all coming from the *patola*.

Because there is so much to taste, I decide to skip the rice but a diner is so impressed with the *kalkag* rice, it just has to be tried. It is fried rice flavored with fried dried shrimp fry (*kalkag*, *alamang*).

Finally, dessert. The sign says *bibingka sa* Mohon and the name reminds me of how many I ate of those small rice cakes mixed with strands of young coconut in the town of Mohon.
The old woman wh
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Ilonggo 'espasol'

The *bayi-bayi* i
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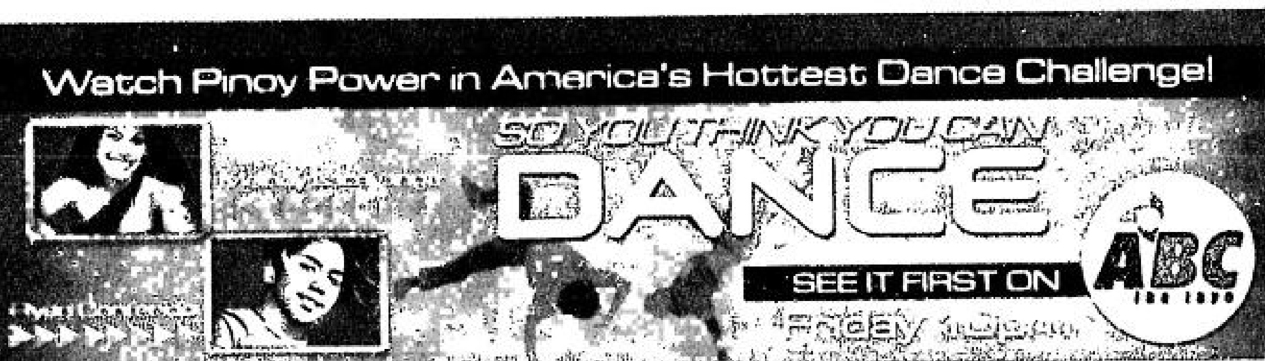

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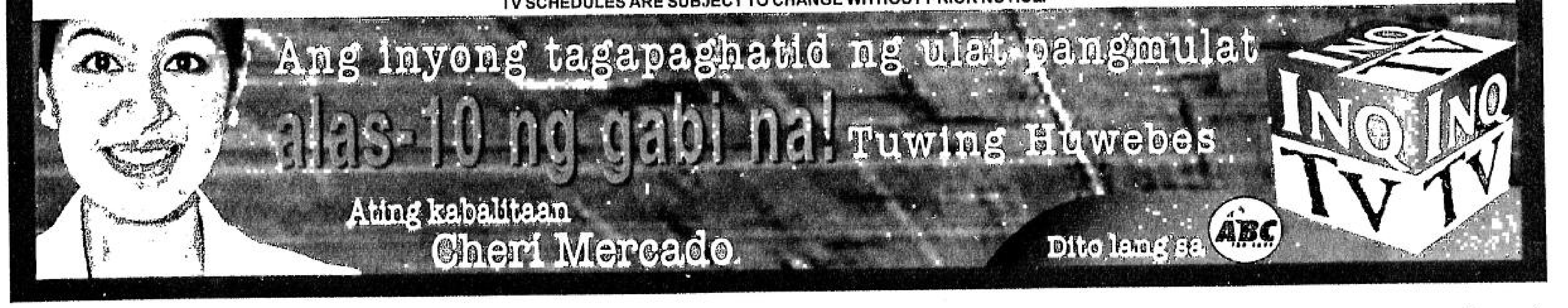
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Thursday, November 10, 2005

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Baktang Trabaho		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Network Forum		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Panday	Pinoy Big Brother	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Barclays EPL		EPL Goals		Sentro	Mumbai Thriller	S.O.S		Wala Yan Sa Lolo Ko		Big News	Rockstar: Inxs	Inq TV		Look Who's Talking
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		The Ultimate Fighter		Salem's Lot		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Japan Video Topics		ME TV		Sea Games Special		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Sheperds Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	Birds Of Prey	Alias		Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Alert	MTV Cribs	That MTV Chart Show		Pimp My Ride	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				MTV Hits	Girl Spotted	TRL		Punk'D	Brand New	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		MYX Bandarito	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN				Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '05		Asian X Games '05 Presented by Kia	X Games 11 - Day3 Part1				Asian X Games '05 Presented by Kia	Sportscenter Asia	Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '05		Nfl's Greatest Moments		Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2004		Sportscenter Asia
Solar Sports	2005 US Open 9-Ball C'ship		2005 Asian Volleyball C'ship Men S-Finals				NBA Game: Seattle Sonics @ Memphis Grizzlies					2005 US Open 9-Ball C'ship		NBA Game: Dallas Mavericks @ Philadelphia 76ers					RTC #9- Knicks/Celtics
Sports Plus	NBA Game					Celebrity Poker Tournament				Slipstream		NFL 2005						NASCAR Dickies 500 Texas	
Cinemax		Manhattan Murder Mystery (3:15 PM)				Batman Boys (5:15 PM)				Ghost (6:55 PM)				Tempo			Maverick (10:20PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Strong Medicine		HCA The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Strong Medicine		Sea People			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Lizzie Mcguire		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia		Hour China		Wild Discovery		Blueprint For Disaster		Extreme Machines		IBM Innovation Hour		Wild Science		The Sphinx Unmasked		Power Zone	
National Geographic		Megastructures		Marine Machines		Catastrophe		Top 6		Wow!		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Megastructures		Explosions Powered By Duracell	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	Johnny Bravo	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Samurai Jack	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Cow At The Moo-vies	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Moto Mate	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		E! True Hollywood Story		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	Scrubs	8 Simple Rules	The Drew Carey Show Miss World Northern Europe Vote For Me	Less Than Perfect/ Miss World Southern Europe Vote For Me	The Apprentice		Friends	Scrubs
AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		The Amazing Race Family Edition		The Amazing Race Family Edition		Beastmaster		Pensacola (Season III)		Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	24		24		The Shield	
JackTV	Dr. Katz	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Beat The Geeks	The Lost Boys				Cinematch	Family Guy	Mad TV		Reno 911	Crank Yankers	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Manila Uncovered	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Velocity	
ETC		GBB	Knock First	1 Hr. Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Committed	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO				A Thousand Acres			My Little Eye (6:45 PM)				Ike Countdown To D-Day			A Cinderella Story			A Return To Salem's Lot		
Star Movies			Bulworth (3:25 PM)			28 Days (5:10 PM)				Almost Famous (6:55 PM)				Welcome To Mooseport				Aces: Iron Eagle 3 (10:50PM)	
Cinema One		Edgar Loves Vilma				Ipaglaban Mo		Lab Kita, Bilib Ka Ba?				Zuma				Type Kita Walang Kokontra			
EWTN	St. Faustina Divine Mercy In Our Souls	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Council Of Faith	Faith Factory D	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Gospel Of Life In Health Care	Lord, Have Mercy	EWTN Live With Father Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Suffering Of The God	Angels Of God	Your Vocation: God's Call In Your Life	The Journey Home	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan Cheri Mercado
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INQ TV

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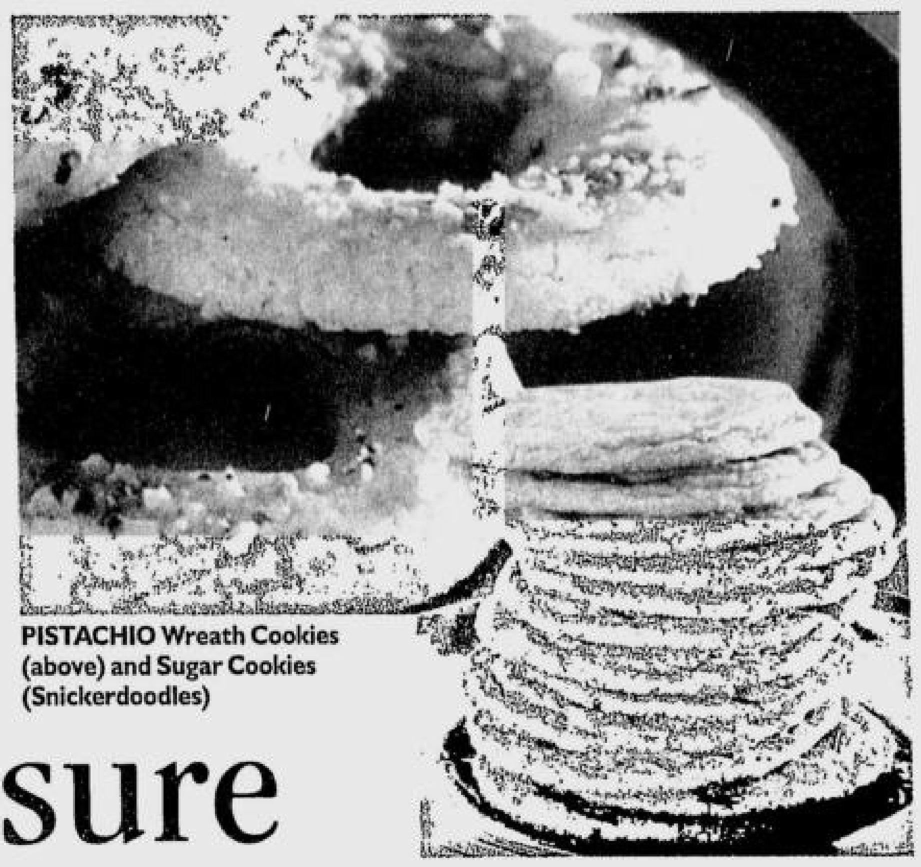
Universal Robina Corporation's Flour Division has published a book to help both neophyte and professional bakers

AT THE LAUNCHING of "Endless Possibilities in Baking": Lance Gokongwei, president and chief executive officer of URC Corp.; Dennis Hipolito, URC consultant chef; and Ellison Lee, URC Flour Division general manager



PISTACHIO Wreath Cookies (above) and Sugar Cookies (Snickerdoodles)

Endless baking pleasure

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

IF YOU NEED A RELIABLE BAKING book to help you prepare your favorite cakes, breads or pastries for the season of sweet indulgence, then "Endless Possibilities in Baking" is the one for you.

Published by the Universal Robina Corporation (URC) Flour Division, maker of quality baking flour in the country, "Endless Possibilities in Baking" features about 80 sure-hit recipes developed and kitchen-tested by noted chef Dennis Hipolito.

In the book's introduction, Hipolito wrote, "URC's first recipe book has been put together to better serve its clients. Unlike most recipe books, the recipes here tell you not only the quantity of flour but also which kind of flour to use—so you get that muffin, cookie or cake just right."

Yes, most cookbooks fail to mention certain things that may seem small but are extremely important to a recipe, such as sifting flour, using eggs that are at room temperature, what type of oil to use, etc.

With URC's book, neophyte bakers, or even professionals, are guided through the whole baking process. As a bonus, a Chef's Tip is included in most recipes, giving readers practical yet priceless baking secrets. The tips are meant to help ensure that readers achieve the desired result.

The book also carries rich color photographs of the finished specialties.

Correct procedure

This baking book also indicates the right quantity of ingredients and details the correct procedures. As Hipolito explained in the book, bakers should know there were different flour types with specific uses. For instance, soft wheat flour like URC's White Rose Soft Flour, Sampaguita Soft Flour and Daisy Cake Flour are mainly used for cakes and cookies that require flour with low protein content. These types of flour create soft, delectable finished products, such as chiffon cakes, *mamon, taisan*, sponge cake and delicate cookies.

Hard wheat flour, like URC's Universal First Class Flour, Globe First Class Flour and Blend 100 Flour, is the bread flour type and, along with URC's Continental All-Purpose Flour, used to make breads and other specialty products that require high-protein flour.

The first part of the book tackles the preparation of cakes, including prune butter cream, rum, carrot with cream cheese frosting and *dayap/calamansi*. Next come breads—brioche, *pan de ube*, whole wheat raisin, and *ensaymada*. Cookies and pastries include raisin and nut scones, shortbread walnut cookies, spritz butter cookies and peach and nut muffins.

The last part, dubbed "the specialties," offers recipes given new twists for special occasions. Check out fruitcake wreath, Christmas stolen, brandied pecan bars, creme-filled chocolate sandwich cookies and everybody's favorite, apple pie.

The book ends with the necessary glossary of terms and conversion table.

For book purchases, call URC at 6721575 or 6721578. Portion of proceeds from the book sales will be donated to a non-profit foundation that provides baking training and livelihood.

Here are some selected recipes from "Endless Possibilities in Baking":

Sugar Cookies (Snickerdoodles)

Dough
225 g butter
100 g sugar
240 g light brown sugar
2g salt
3g vanilla
100 eggs
300 g White Rose Soft Flour
2 g baking soda
Cinnamon Sugar Mixture
200 g sugar
6 g cinnamon

To make dough: In a mixing bowl, cream butter, sugar, light brown sugar, salt and vanilla till light, about 4 mins. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Blend in flour and baking soda.

Refrigerate dough for at least four hours or overnight. Scoop down into 30-35 pieces of about 1 to ½ tbsp portions.

Roll cookies in cinnamon sugar mixture. Place cookies on parchment-lined cookie sheets. Flatten dough to about ¼" thickness.

Bake at 350°F for 10-14 mins or till top is almost golden. Cool before unmolding.

For cinnamon sugar mixture and assembly, simply combine sugar and cinnamon and use as needed.

Chef's tip: To make cookies come out chunky rather than flat, refrigerate dough overnight before baking. Long refrigeration stabilizes the batter, resulting in a "slow spread" during the baking process.

Pistachio Wreath Cookies

340 g butter, softened
300 g sugar
3 g vanilla
2.5 g salt
100 g eggs
Drops of green food color (as desired)
480 g White Rose Soft Flour
2.5 baking flour
80 g pistachios, finely chopped

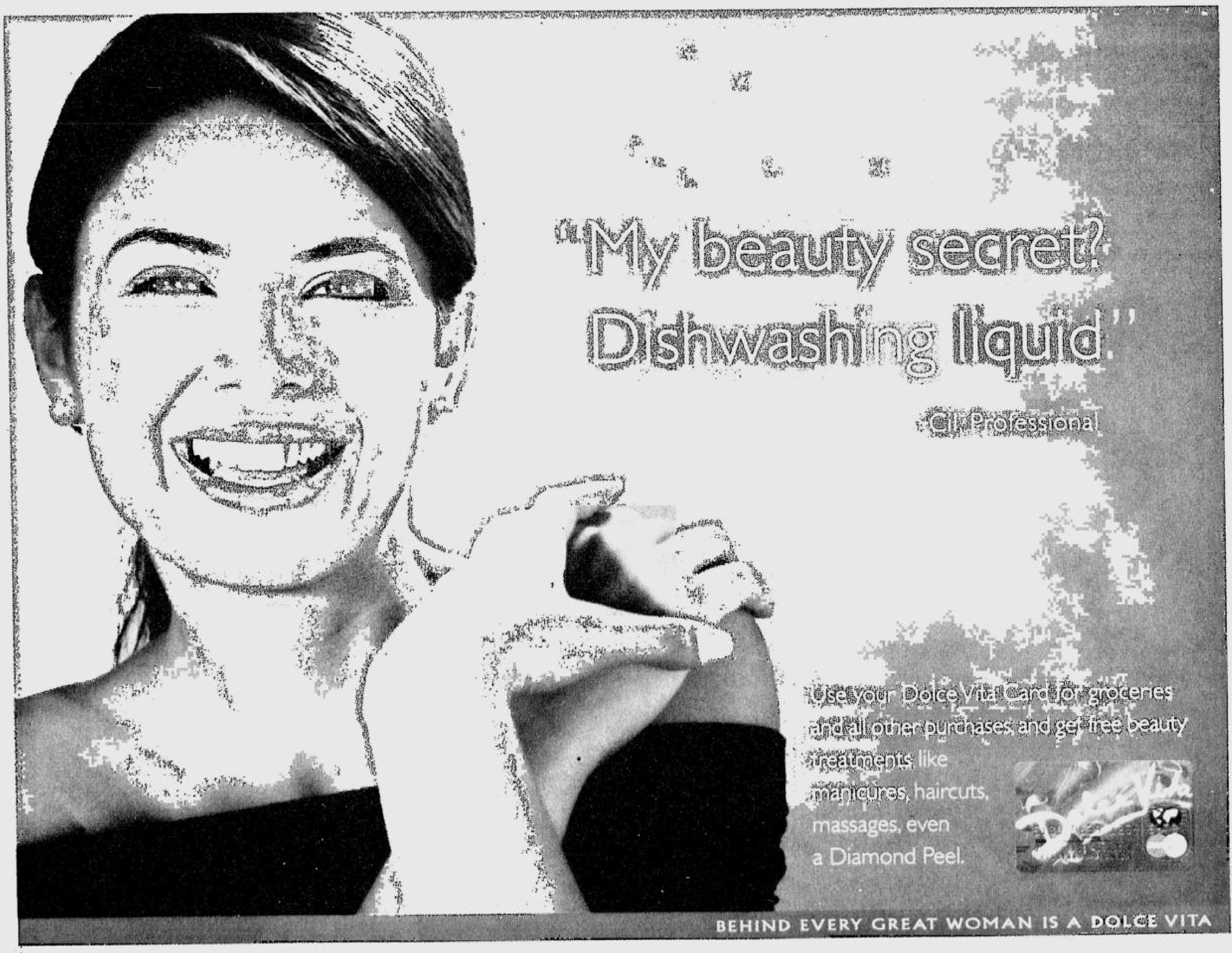
In a mixing bowl, cream butter, sugar, vanilla and salt, about 2-3 mins. Add eggs one a time, beating well after each addition. Blend in flour and baking powder, mixing well. Add food coloring as desired.

Chill dough for at least 1 hour. Roll dough into 6"-ropes of ¼" thickness.

Form ring with each length of rope and pinch ends. Transfer rings onto a silicone mat or parchment-lined cookie sheet. Sprinkle chopped pistachios over the rings.

Bake at 350°F for 10 mins or till edges are just starting to color. Cool before unmolding.

Chef's tip: In the shaping process, knead the dough before rolling into a rope to keep dough from cracking.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NOVEMBER – DECEMBER SCHEDULE
RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

BAKING CLASSES

November 22, Tuesday – YUMMY BAKED GOODIES. Welcome Chef Hannah Herrera, our latest addition to the CACS faculty formerly DOME Café's Kitchen Operations Manager. She will demonstrate her favorite baked goodies such as Angel Food Cake, 2 Variations of Pound Cake, White Chocolate Pecan Bars, Strawberry Cream Puff and Mango Cream Puff that can be made for gift-giving this holiday season. For P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

COOKING CLASSES

November 11, Friday – FLAVORS OF VIETNAM. Chaglo, Nuoc Cham Dipping Sauce, Pickled Vegetables, Nem Nuong Hanoi, Gene's Pho, Goi Ga (Vietnamese Chicken Salad), Cha Ca Thang Long and Xuong Xa Hot Lou are the recipes from Chef Gene and the Omni Saigon Cooking School. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 10:00 – 3:00 pm.

November 13, Sunday – GIFTS FROM THE KITCHEN. Chef Gene prepares an array of Holiday gifts your friends will appreciate and that are easy to prepare in the shortest possible time. Classic favourites such as Vela de Lomo, Gourmet Tuyo, Grilled White Cheese, Aceitunas Aliñadas, Dulong in Olive oil, Mufuletta and many more. P1,200.00 from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m. Recipes include all ingredients.

November 14, Monday – PAELLAS N' RISOTTOS 2. Paella de Mariscos, Paella Primavera, Paella de Fideos, Seafood Jambalaya and Risotto alla Milanese are the recipes that Chef Gene will share with us. For P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 3:00 p.m.

November 16, Wednesday – HOLIDAY TURKEY TREAT. Impress your friends with a complete Turkey dinner for the coming Holiday season. Recipes include 4 kinds of Stuffing, Giblet Gravy, Corn Bread, Split Pea Soup, Old Fashioned Fruit Salad and Glazed Sweet Potatoes with Campfire Crust. P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 3:00 p.m.

November 17, Thursday – PULUTAN CLASSICS. Traditional and classic Pulutan fare for the holidays will be demonstrated by Chef Toto Erfe. The recipes are Sisig, Peppered Tuna Ceviche, Curly Calamari, Chicken Feet with Tausi, Crispy Binagoongang and for P1,200.00 from 11:00 – 3:00 pm including all ingredients. NEW CLASS.

November 19, Saturday – SEAFOOD FUSION 2. Delicious Seafood dishes from Chef Gene that can be prepared this holiday season, recipes are Smoked Salmon Dumplings, Squid Cake, Spicy Tuna Carpaccio, Timbale of Salmon with Smoked Fish and Shrimp Spring Rolls with Red Pepper Bean Paste. P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 3:00 p.m.

November 20, Sunday. – PRAWNS TO PLEASE. Chef Gene will teach us different styles of cooking prawns that you will enjoy. Recipes include Prawns Furai, Prawns Benihana, Sizzling Crystal Prawns in Chinese Bagoong, Prawns in Orange Sauce, Prawns in Tamarind Sauce (Crustacean Style) and Prawns In Caramelized Walnuts for P1,000.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 3:00 p.m.

November 21, Monday – NOCHE BUENA FEAST. Chef Gino will teach you tasty and delicious holiday dishes served during Noche Buena and other special occasions. Recipes include Lengua con Cetas, Roast Rib-eye with Onion Gravy, Spanish Style Roast Turkey, Cannelloni and Prawns Thermidor for P1,500.00 from 11:00 – 4:00 p.m. including all ingredients.

November 23, Wednesday –SIMPLE KOREAN COOKING 1. Let Shim Khun Huh from Pusan, Korea invite us to her home cooking of Beancurd Banchan, Potato Banchan, Seaweed Soup, Stir-fried Mungsprouts, Lettuce with Fermented Bean Paste, Bulgogi with Dipping Sauce and Dried Anchovy Banchan for P1,200.00 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

November 25, Friday – SIMPLE KOREAN COOKING 2. O-Jing Auh Bok Gum (Squid Salad), Takkalbi (Chicken Barbecue), Korean Grilled Chili Pork, Sue Jae Bi (Flat Noodles with Vegetables and Dried Anchovy), Chapche (Crystal Noodles with Thinly Sliced Beef and Vegetables), Kimchi Bokumbap (Korean Fried Rice) and Cold Cucumber Soup are the recipes of Shim Khun Huh that can be cooked this holiday season. Recipes include all ingredients from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. for P1,200.00.

November 27, Sunday – SIMPLE SUSHI & SASHIMI WORKSHOP 1. This Sushi and Sashimi Workshop of Chef Aoki from Osaka, Japan where the student will learn simple and basic sushi and sashimi making that you can do and serve to your family and friends. Trimming of Tuna, Sushi Rice, California Maki, Tekka Maki, Temaki, Kanikyuri Sarada and Miso Soup are the recipes that he will be teaching. P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m.

November 28, Monday – MEDITERRANEAN DISHES FOR THE HOME. Simple yet sumptuous dishes like Beef and Cheese Tartlets (Bocaditos de Queso), Melon and Parma Salad with Strawberry Salsa (Ensalada Melon y Parma con Fresas), Chicken Roulade (Pollo Envuelto), Eggplants with Mushrooms (Berengjenas Rellenas), Fish Stew with Garlic Sauce (Suquet de Pescado) and Baked Tomatoes with Ham (Tomates Asados) will be demonstrated by Chef Betina Legarda of Gourmet Palate that can be serve during this holiday season. Recipes include all ingredients from 10:00 – 2:00 p.m. for P1,500.00. NEW CLASS.

December 01, Thursday – TEAHOUSE SPECIALTIES 1. Take the specialties of the best teahouses from Chef Gene Gonzalez and prepare them in your kitchen – simply! Recipes include Spicy Eggplant In Pot, Braised Soy Beef, Shrimp Dumpling, Amoy Lumpia, Drunken Chicken and Favorite Lemon Chicken for P1,200.00 from 10:00 – 3:00 p.m.

December 03, Saturday – THE COUNTRY STEW POT. Country stew pot recipes from Chef Gene that we can enjoy with our friends this holiday season which includes Jambon Au Riesling, Stewed Lamb in Red Wine, Oxtail Ragout, Chanterelle Mashed Potato and Coq au Vin (Fish Bourride) for P1,200.00 from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

December 04, Sunday – THE CRAB IS KING 1. Recipes from Chef Gene that are all time restaurant favorites and can be prepared this holiday season includes Than-Long Crab, Crab Cakes, Stuffed Crab Bisque, Fried Salted Spicy Crab and Quiampong with Crabmeat. P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m.

December 06, Tuesday – GENE'S FAVORITE PASTA SAUCES 1. Seafood In Saffron Crème & Proscuitto, Squid Ink, Vegetarian White Cheese and Herbs, Sicilian Tuna Roe and many more are the recipes that Chef Gene will teach us. P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 – 3:00 p.m.

December 08, Thursday – GENE'S FAVORITE PASTA SAUCES 2. With Chorizo and Roasted Garlic Cream, Chorizo and Shrimp in Saffron Cream, Duck Farfalette with Dried Currants, Gene's Favorite Tortellini, Salmon Lasagna with Saffron Sauce and Linguine alla Vongole Salsa Bianca. P1,200.00 with all the ingredients included from 10:00 – 2:00 p.m.

December 11, Sunday – SIMPLE SUSHI & SASHIMI WORKSHOP 2. You will learn from Chef Rikichi Aoki of Osaka, Japan How to Trim Flat Fish, How to make Aji Sushi, Futomaki Rainbow, Maki Inari Sushi, See Chicken Maki, Tamago Yaki and Nigiri Sushi. Recipes include ingredients for P1,200.00 from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD CALL AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS FOR RESERVATION.

Ate Ming's Kamote and Bread Pudding

PDI FAMILY RECIPES CONTEST

By Maribelle Marquez

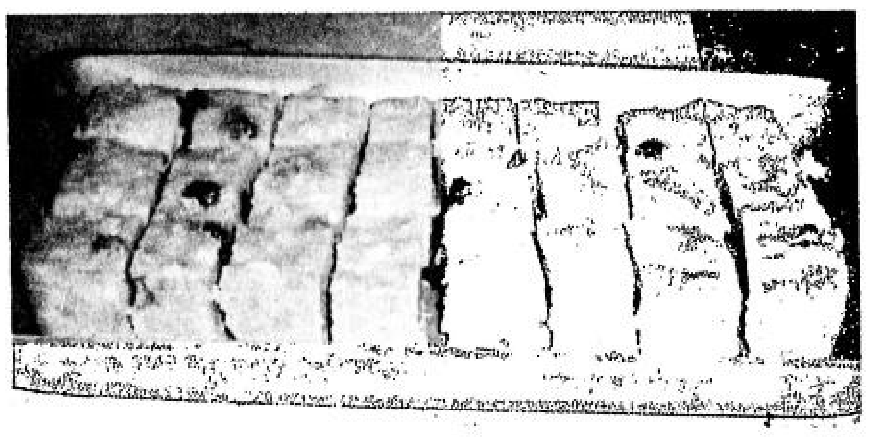
I REMEMBER HOW, AS A kid, my siblings and I would run to the house after a day's play to be greeted by the delicious aroma of hot, creamy homemade pudding.

The dish was created by someone who had become part of our family, our longtime house help Ate Ming. Pleasant-looking and cheerful, Ate Ming has been with my family for 45 years. She is so dedicated to our family that she chose not to have a family of her own.

The homemade *kamote* and bread pudding is very economical. It uses simple ingredients easily found in any kitchen. The main ingredient is leftover bread or *pandesal* (as long as this is not stale), and the very affordable *kamote* which gives the pudding that extra kick.

As kids, we always removed the sides of our loaf bread. Ate Ming made sure these did not go to waste.

The recipe is easy to follow and requires no fancy cooking techniques or high-tech kitchen gadgets. Ate Ming prefers to concoct her special pudding using a very simple and traditional method: mixing by hand. In fact, we jokingly refer to her pudding as "L&L" or "*linamas at linamutak.*" However, she always made sure her hands were clean.



KAMOTE and Bread Pudding

Three generations of the family have enjoyed this wonderful dish—from my parents to my generation and now my children's generation. This homemade *kamote* and bread pudding is usually eaten for *merienda*, but it can be served at any time of the day when one wants a quick, sweet snack.

Kamote and Bread Pudding

Ingredients

2 c *pandesal* and/or bread sides (broken into small pieces and packed tightly)
1 c grated uncooked *kamote*
¼ c condensed milk
4 tbsp brown sugar
2 c water
2 tbsp raisin (optional)

Procedure

Mix all ingredients (using wooden spoon or hands) in a large bowl, mashing the bread until the mixture is consistent. Put mixture into 9 x 5-inch greased loaf pan. Bake in 350 °F oven for 30-40 minutes or until top is light brown. Serve hot or at room temperature.

Win SM Supermarket gift checks

LIFESTYLE IS LOOKING for recipes that use traditional Filipino techniques and ingredients.

Send us your family recipes and, if your entry is chosen, you can win P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, an Imarflex gift or a class at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts.

Tell us who in your family first cooked the recipe; how many generations have cooked it; when it is usually cooked and served. Write your name, address, phone numbers and e-mail address, if any, at the bottom of the recipe.

Include a **photo of the dish.** Please do not send us your photo.

Mail or deliver your entry to PDI Family Recipes Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1263. Or e-mail to **recipes@inquirer.com.ph**. For details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. Winners may claim prizes from the PDI marketing office.

One man's passion

From page C1

minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to finish cooling.

More of Ashmore's recipes next week...

Eggs part 3

Fried eggs—The freshest eggs are the best for frying. Use a nonstick skillet, heat and do a "water roll" temperature test on the pan. Add a small amount of oil or butter. Break eggs into the skillet, reduce heat to low. Cook until whites set completely and yolk begins to turn opaque. Season with salt and pepper.

Four types of fried eggs:

Sunny side up—cooked until whites are just set.

Over easy—cooked until whites are set, then given a flip and cooked for 30 seconds to form a film over the yolk.

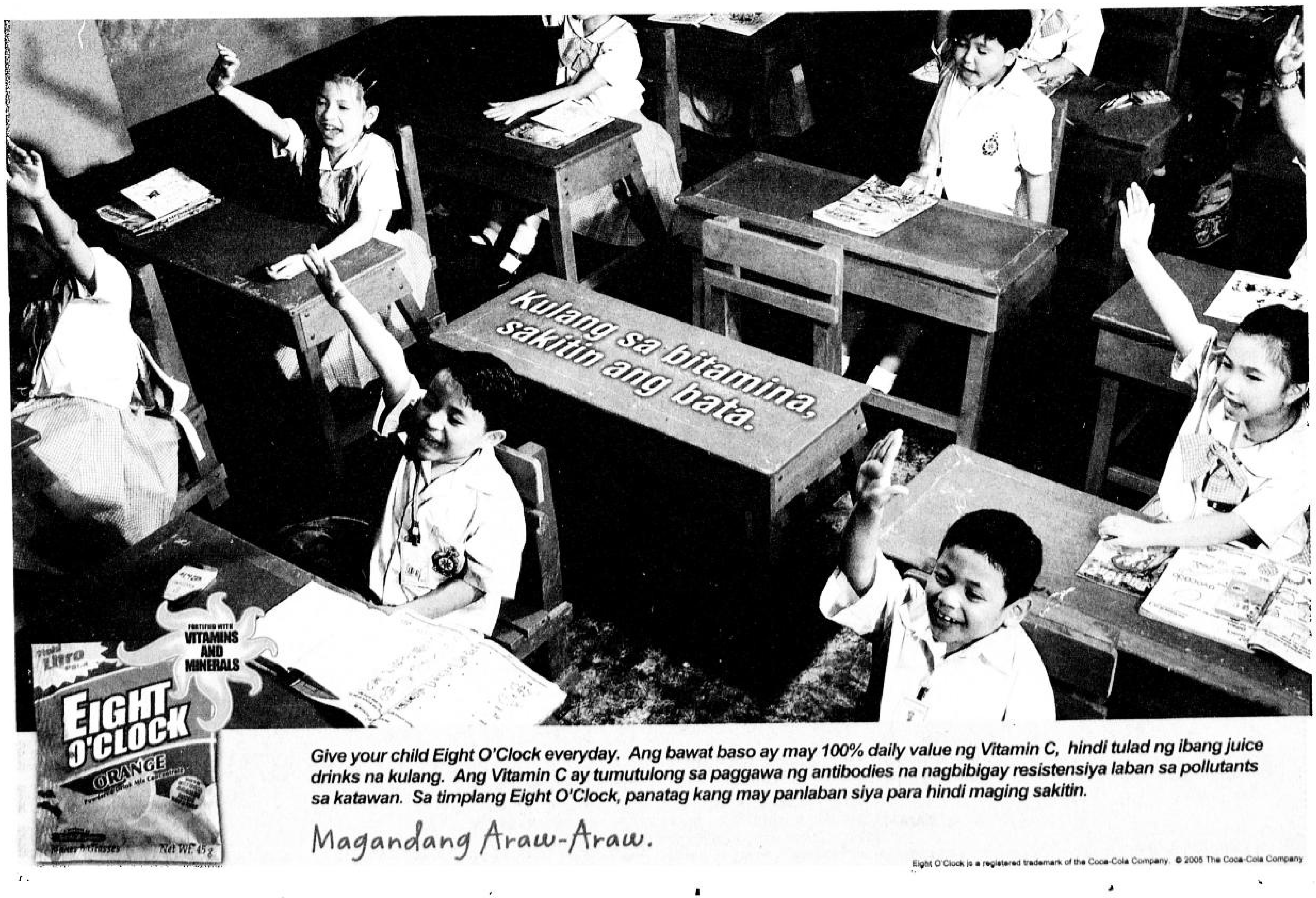
Over well—eggs cooked until completely set, 1 minute.

Steam-fried—sunny-side up eggs splashed with a teaspoon of water once the whites set, then given a final minute of cooking on a covered skillet.

To be continued...

"Kitchen Rescue, Vol. 1," a compilation of my INQUIRER *columns, will be out soon. For reservations, call 6474744 and 6470468.*

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.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Magandang Araw-Araw.

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LIFESTYLE

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CHEF Yoshimi Igarashi

This way to the Japanese buffet

Westin's Café Plaza Too has an ongoing buffet of sashimi, sushi, tempura, maki and teriyaki alongside its regular offerings

By Margaux Salcedo
Contributor

JAPANESE FOOD HAS earned its place in most people's Favorite Foods list because you can gorge on Japanese food and somehow, miraculously, do not feel too bloated after the third bite. So if you're craving Japanese and feel like you can eat all the sashimi in the world, forget a la carte and hit a Japanese buffet.

An option for this buffet is at the Westin's Café Plaza Too. They have a "Turning Japanese" food festival ongoing until the end of the month with all your Japanese favorites: sashimi, sushi, tempura, *maki*, *unagi*, teriyaki, you name it. The great thing is these are presented alongside their regular continental buffet.

If you are particular with your teriyaki, here's the low-down: The sashimi and sushi are, as one would expect them to be, raw and fresh. I wouldn't recommend the tempura, which was a little soggy, although I'm sure you may ask for a fresh batch. Also, the shrimp tempura was a little too petite. But the *maki* was an exceptional delight because it was twice the size of *maki* in ordinary Japanese restaurants and you can really taste the freshness in your mouth.

Sushi demo

Now, if you are going out of your way just to "turn Japanese," I would recommend you time it when their guest Japanese master chef Yoshimi Igarashi is doing a demo on making sushi. This will be every Friday night and Saturdays and Sundays during brunch.

As part of the program, Café Plaza Too has set up a demo table so that customers may gain an appreciation for the art of making sushi. It's almost like watching "Iron Chef" live. You will see the chef, a very friendly man, transform into someone very intense when working on his sushi. Apparently, making sushi is not as simple as it looks!

Chefs invest years learning the craft of sushi-making. Chef Yoshimi himself has over 28 years of experience. It is important to invest this much time because aside from perfecting the delicate taste, each chef must develop his own style. Chef Yoshimi's bestseller for the Westin is a cold tuna and salmon sashimi in Ichimatsu design. It is tuna and salmon sashimi cut into very small slices, arranged in a pattern then wrapped in *nori* or seaweed. Picture *maki* but with just *sashimi* inside, no rice. It creates an interesting taste, having two of your favorites at once.

Rice dessert

My favorite among the favorites, though, I found among the desserts. The chocolate buffet next door was very tempting but I was looking for something Japanese to go with the theme so I stumbled upon a fascinating concoction by dessert chef Rolando Macatangay:

THIS/ D3

The Maya Kitchen
CULINARY ARTS CENTER

Sweet Holiday Treats and More...

The holidays are here and it's time for some traditional sweet treats. Let Maya Kitchen help you make your holiday season memorable for family and friends. Check the schedules below and sign up now!

Sweet Treats: Nov. 12 (Sat.) 3 - 6 p.m. Fruitcake Bars, Boat Tarts, Food for the Gods, Almond Roca, Pastillas de leche, Pulvoron including costing & packaging. P750.00

Japanese Cooking: Nov. 12 (Sat) 3 - 6 p.m. Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi; assorted nigiri and sushi: Kappamaki, Tekamaki, California maki. P1,000 with free Japanese cookbook.

Italian Pasta Sampler: Nov. 19 (Sat) 3 - 6 p.m. Lasagna, Cannelloni, Puttanesca Penne, Spaghetti Carbonara, Fettucine Pesto, Angel's Hair Aglio Olio. Bonus: homemade flavored pasta. P800.

Simbang Gabi Special: Nov. 26 (Sat.) 3 - 6 p.m. Bibingka Royale, Cassava Bibingka, Pichi-pichi, Bibingkang Malagkit, Cuchinta, Maja Nangka. Bonus: Homemade Salabat. P750.

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS-ON (Limited enrolment, Pre-registration required)

Basic Cake Decorating: Nov. 12 & 19 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fundamentals of cake decorating: coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flowers incl. bunching techniques. Individual workshop on icing application & cake designing. P3,000

Basic Baking: Nov. 15-18 or Nov. 29-Dec. 2 (T-F) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Standard baking techniques applicable to the preparation of different types of bread dough, quick breads, pastry dough and cookies, cakes and ready mixes. P4,000 with free cookbook.

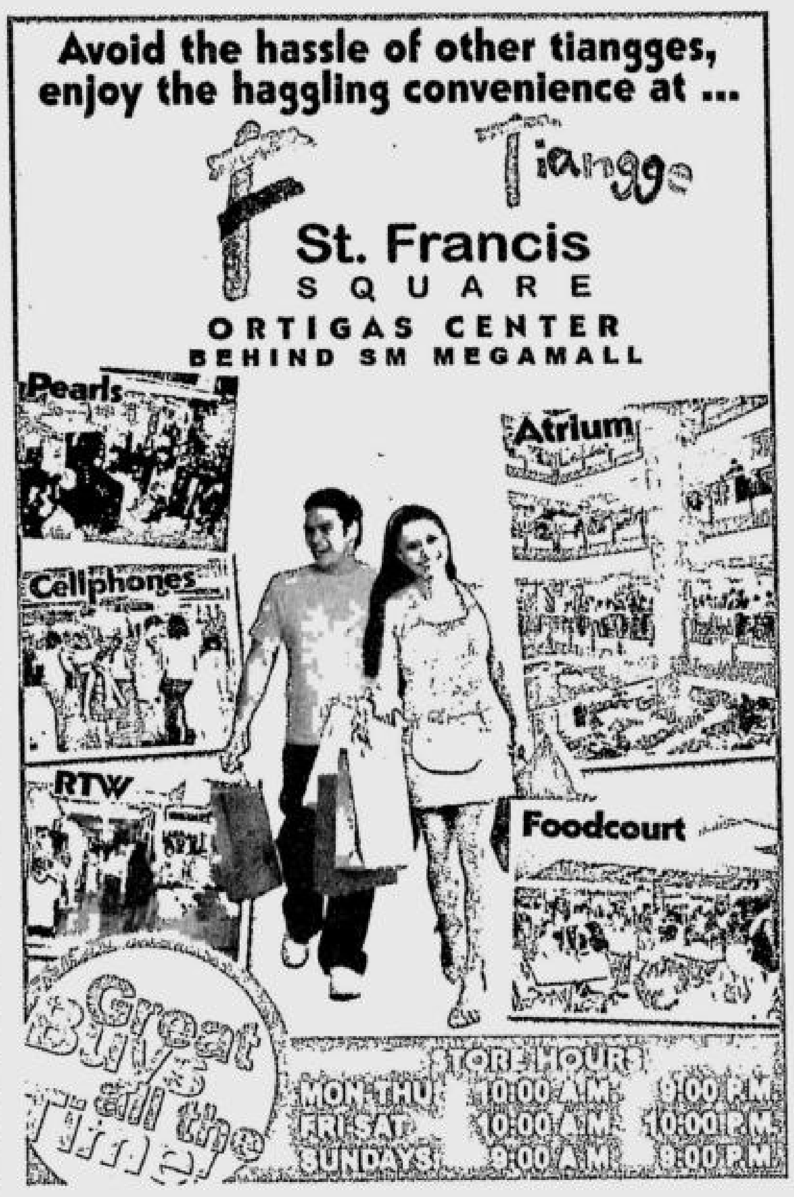
Catering: Nov. 16-18 (W-F) 3-6 p.m. Legal & technical aspect to get started in catering business. Facilities, personnel, menu including portioning and quantification. Actual cooking preparation of Stuffed Chicken Thighs, Vegetable Samosa, Spicy Chicken Wings, Eggplant Skordalia, Quiche Lorraine, P3,000 with free Catering cookbook.

Basic Waitering & Bartending ; Nov. 19 & 26 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Basic setup, techniques of suggestive selling, proper serving and bussing out, napkin folding & skirting, Bar tools and glass wares, classification of wine and spirits, simple garnish. With actual mixing of cocktail drinks and wine tasting. P3,000

Basic Cooking: Nov. 22-25 or Dec. 6-9 (T-F) 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Proper hygiene, sanitation and safety; Nutrition and Nutritional Cooking; proper mis-en-place of mirepoix, stocks, soups, sauces, marinades, use of herbs and spices combinations, proper purchasing, storage, techniques of disjointing and boning poultry, filleting fish and meat fabrication. With actual preparation of dishes from appetizer, salad, eggs, pasta, seafoods, poultry and meats, dessert including garnishing for plate presentation. Free Mix & Match cookbook. P5,000

COMING UP! Christmas Eve Menu: Roasted Stuffed Chicken, Galantina, Pot Roast and Roasted Ham with special sauce: Dec. 3 (3-7 p.m.)

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108; or e-mail us at *mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph*



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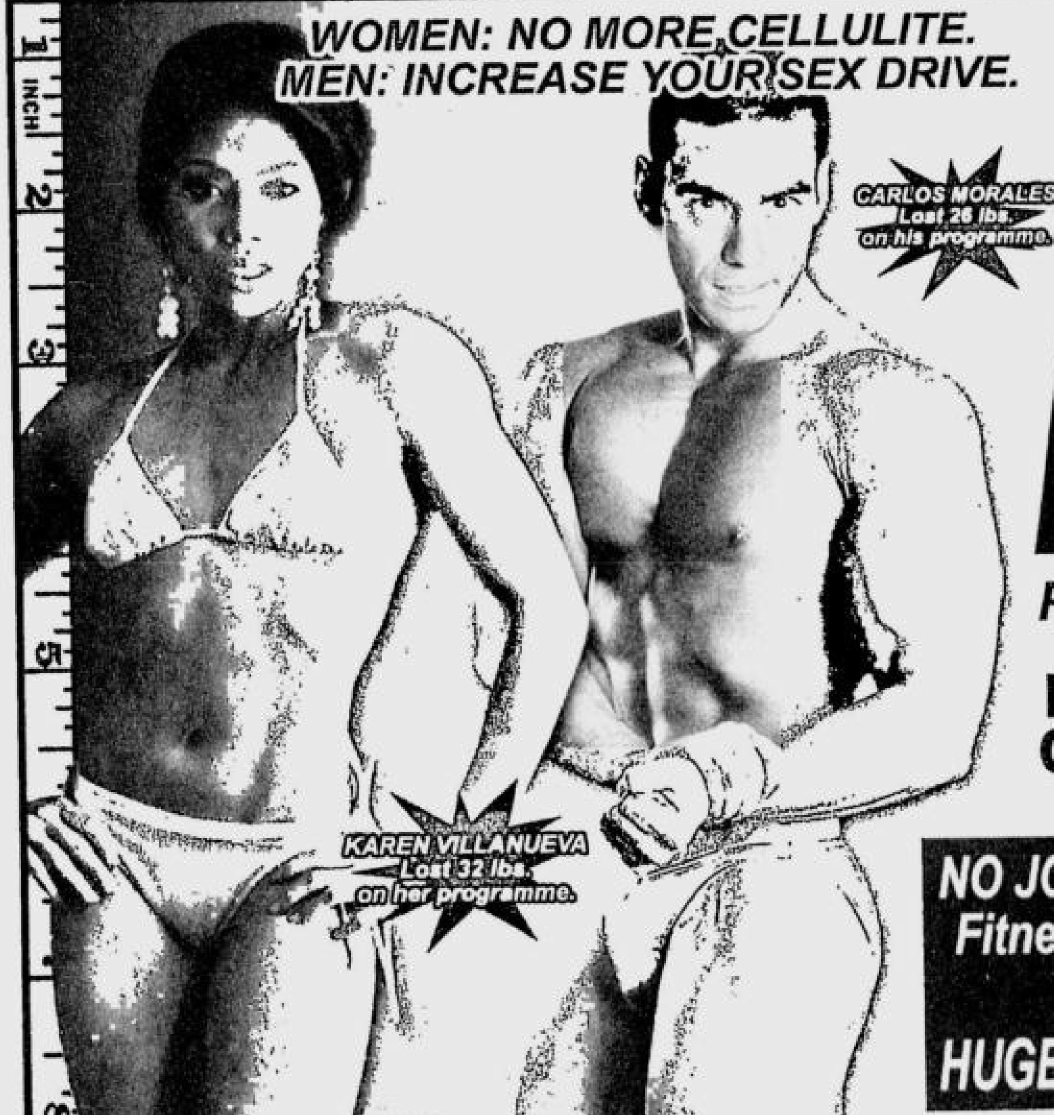

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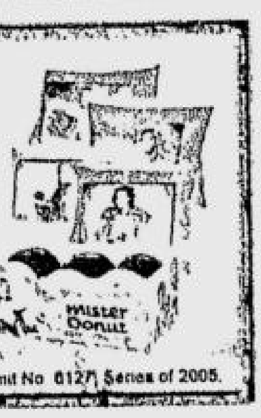

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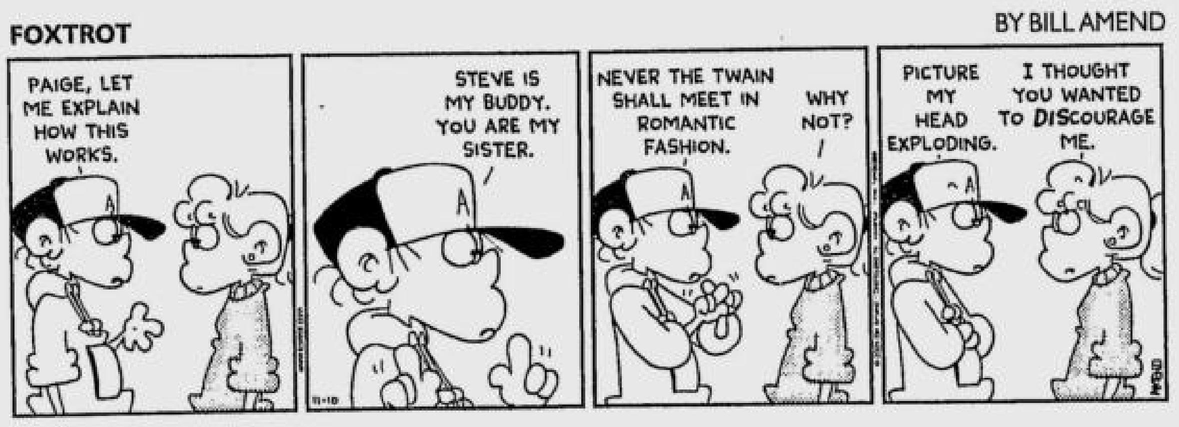
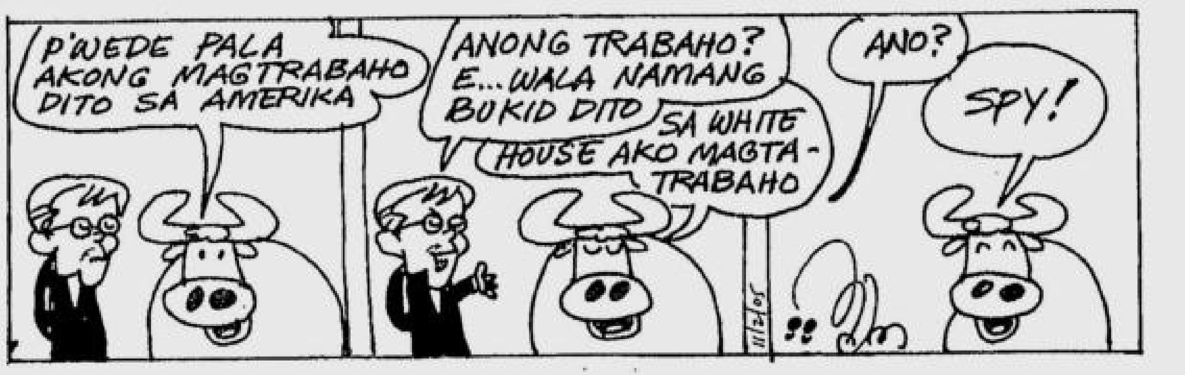
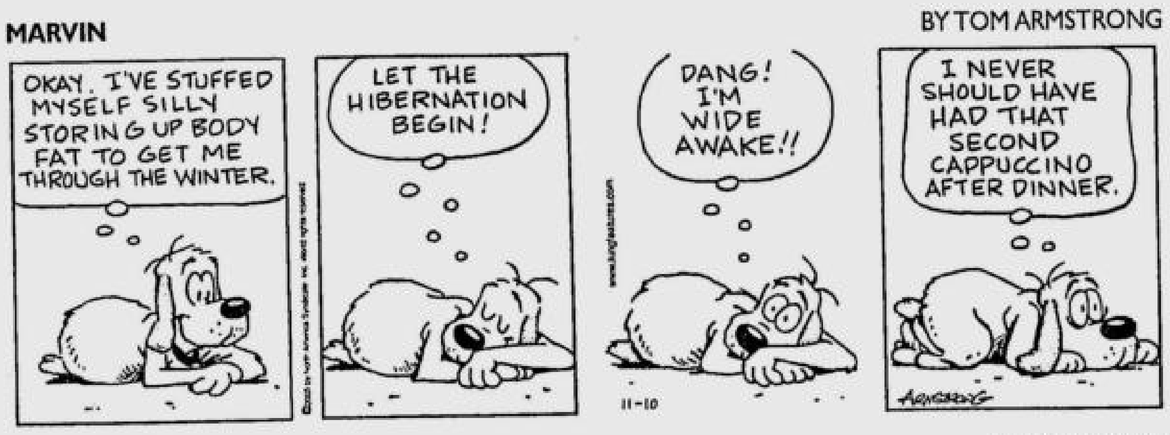
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


PAIGE, LET ME EXPLAIN HOW THIS WORKS.
STEVE IS MY BUDDY. YOU ARE MY SISTER.
11-10
NEVER THE TWAIN SHALL MEET IN ROMANTIC FASHION.
WHY NOT?
PICTURE MY HEAD EXPLODING.
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO DISCOURAGE ME.

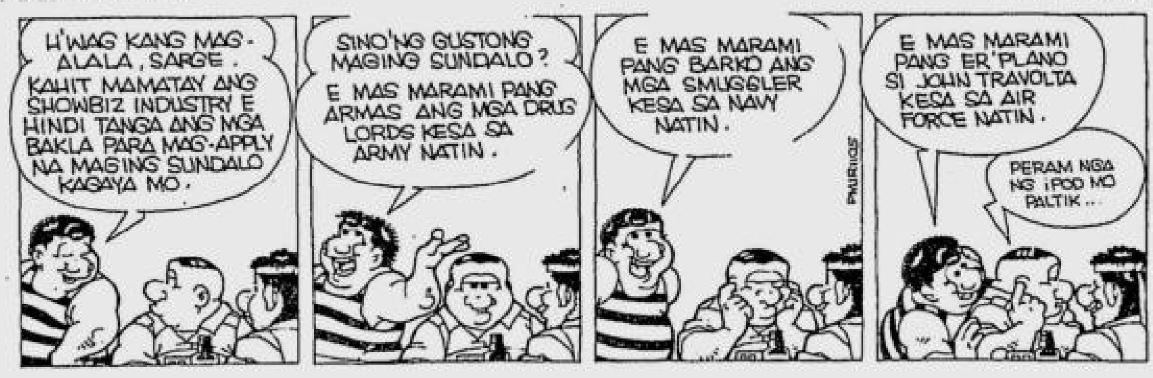
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


P'WEDE PALA AKONG MAGTRABAHO DITO SA AMERIKA
ANONG TRABAHO? E...WALA NAMANG BUKID DITO
SA WHITE HOUSE AKO MAGTA-TRABAHO
ANO?
SPY!

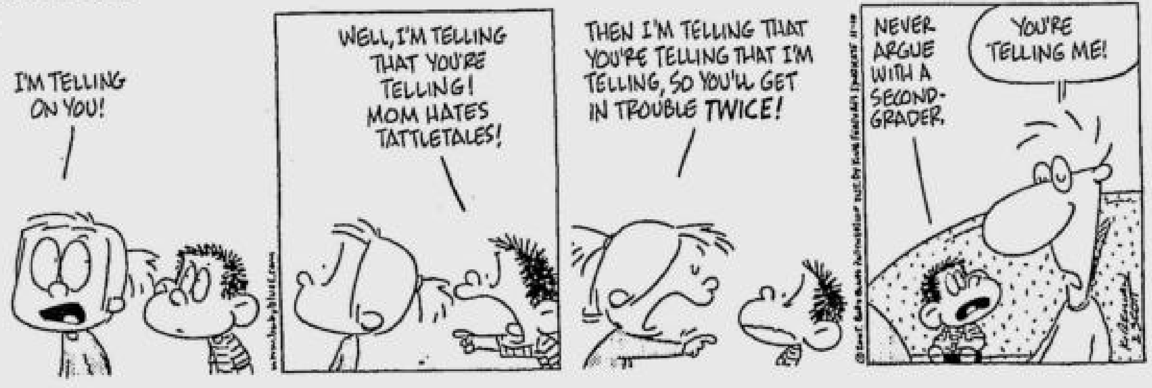
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


OKAY. I'VE STUFFED MYSELF SILLY STORING UP BODY FAT TO GET ME THROUGH THE WINTER.
LET THE HIBERNATION BEGIN!
DANG! I'M WIDE AWAKE!!
11-10
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE HAD THAT SECOND CAPPUCCINO AFTER DINNER.

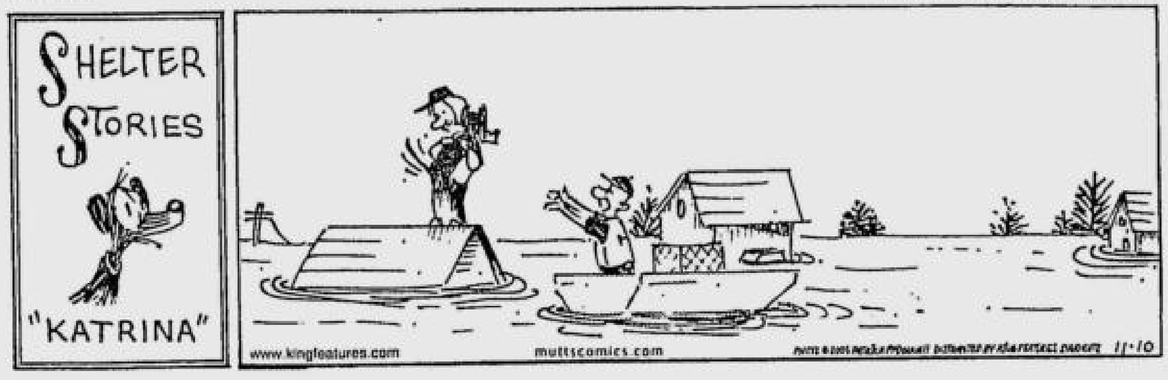
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


H'WAG KANG MAG-ALALA, SARGE. KAHIT MAMATAY ANG SHOWBIZ INDUSTRY E HINDI TANGA ANG MGA BAKLA PARA MAG-APPLY NA MAGING SUNDALO KAGAYA MO.
SINO'NG GUSTONG MAGING SUNDALO? E MAS MARAMI PANG ARMAS ANG MGA DRUG LORDS KESA SA ARMY NATIN.
E MAS MARAMI PANG BARKO ANG MGA SMUGGLER KESA SA NAVY NATIN.
E MAS MARAMI PANG ER'PLANO SI JOHN TRAVOLTA KESA SA AIR FORCE NATIN.
PERAM NGA NG iPOD MO PALTIK...

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M TELLING ON YOU!
WELL, I'M TELLING THAT YOU'RE TELLING! MOM HATES TATTLETALES!
THEN I'M TELLING THAT YOU'RE TELLING THAT I'M TELLING, SO YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE TWICE!
NEVER ARGUE WITH A SECOND-GRADER.
YOU'RE TELLING ME!

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL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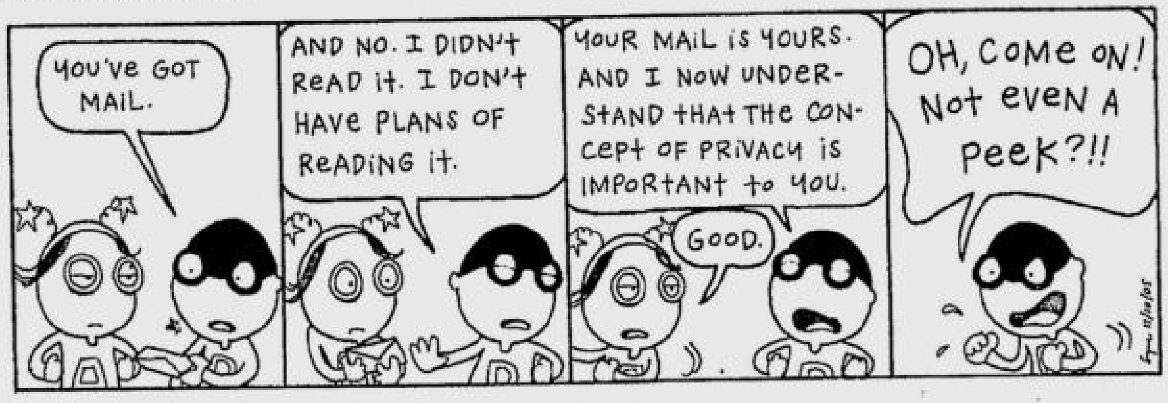
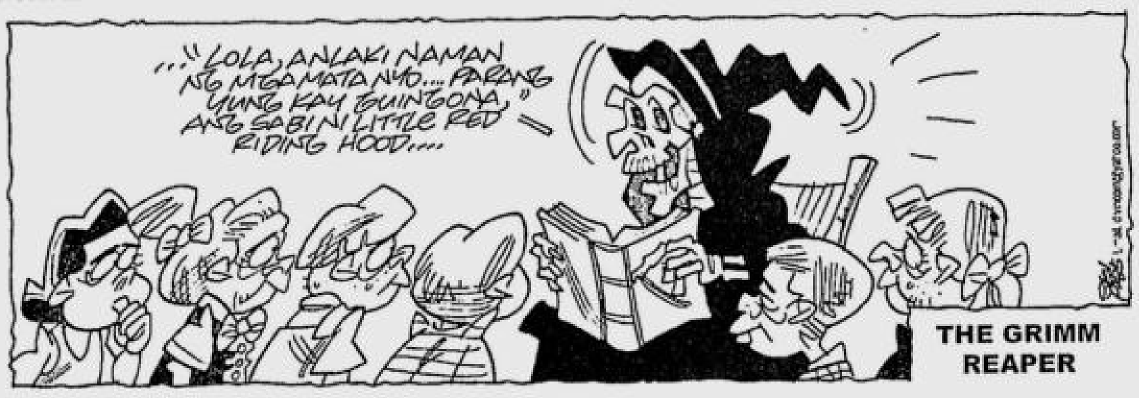
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU'VE GOT MAIL.
AND NO. I DIDN'T READ IT. I DON'T HAVE PLANS OF READING IT.
YOUR MAIL IS YOURS. AND I NOW UNDERSTAND THAT THE CONCEPT OF PRIVACY IS IMPORTANT TO YOU.
GOOD.
OH, COME ON! NOT EVEN A PEEK?!!

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


..."LOLA, ANLAKI NAMAN NG MGA MATA NYO.... PARANG YUNG KAY GUINGONA," ANG SABI NI LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD....
THE GRIMM REAPER

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're confident and sure of yourself. Because of this, you appear to others to be steady and reliable. (And in a way, you are.) But for the most part, your life is constantly changing! You're passionate, desirable and talented, and this attracts unusual circumstances to you. The year ahead is full of fresh, exciting new beginnings!
Birthdate of: Brittany Murphy, actress; Richard Burton, actor; Tim Rice, lyricist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be patient with others early this morning. Ideological differences about politics and religion might set your day off on the wrong foot. (Just focus on your right foot now, to correct things.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Go gently in discussions with bosses and parents today, especially this morning. Feelings of independence arise within you, and this makes you want to ignore advice—especially when you're not even looking for it!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Interruptions and delays to travel plans or matters connected with publishing and the media are likely today. Power outages and computer crashes dog your steps. (Groan.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might be surprised that the support you expected from someone is not there today. This is minor; nevertheless, it's one of those hangnail irritations. Just live with it, because you have no choice.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Parents must be extra-patient with children today. You must also be vigilant about potential accidents. Expect the unexpected when dealing with young people, romance and vacations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Others are touchy today! You will sense this immediately. You might even feel the same way. Therefore, this is quite obviously a day where you must demonstrate grace under pressure (as only you can).

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't press your point too hard with coworkers today. Things will only backfire. Be patient and cautious when driving or walking to work today. It's an accident-prone day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's hard to keep track of money and possessions today. It's easy to lose things or misplace them. You might also spend money impulsively in a way you'll later regret.

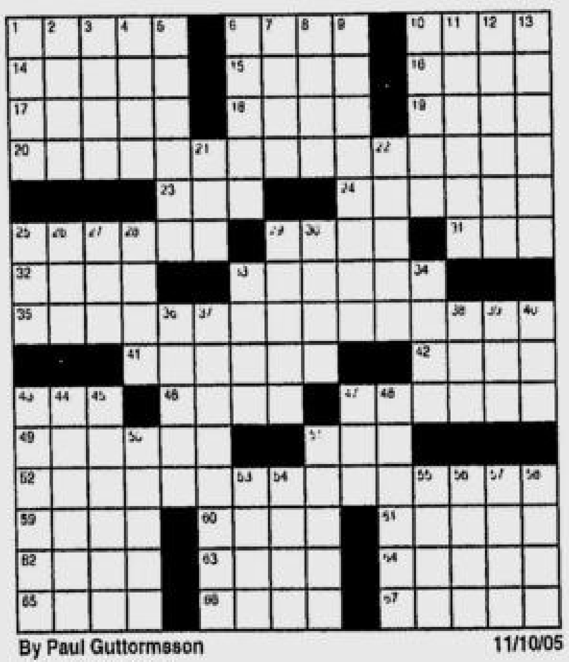
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Honesty and truth are important to you. Ironically, this is why you're sometimes quite blunt, blurting out things that shock others. Remember: A closed mouth gathers no feet.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Things will not go as planned today. If you accept this right from the get-go, your day will be easier. Just go with the flow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): A bizarre, unusual person might come into your life today. This will intrigue you because you like characters. Alternatively, a friend might cancel an appointment.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Expect surprising news from bosses, superiors and parents today. Be ready to jump either way. Something catches you off guard.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Paul Guttormsson
Hales Corners, WI

11/10/05

ACROSS
1 Dooluses
6 Writer Irwin
10 Plant used for cordage
14 Deplete
15 Shove
16 Puccini song
17 Stephen King's state
18 "Born Free" lioness
19 Laws, briefly
20 Start of a quip
23 German article
24 Fort near Charleston
25 Handyman's assignment
29 Bad luck
31 Crafty
32 Extinct bird
33 Positive about
35 Part 2 of quip
41 Family reunion attendees
42 Big bank prefix
43 All of the guys
46 Double helix nucleotides
47 Short snooze
49 Wall socket
51 Colorful pond fish
52 End of quip
59 Actor Lugosi
60 Make reference to
61 Chap
62 Scrapes (by)
63 Comic Meara
64 Decorate
65 Piece of punctuation
66 Rod's companion
67 Lose one's mind

DOWN
1 Unfeeling
2 Son of Isaac
3 Tim of "WKRP in Cincinnati"
4 Manure
5 Swimwear brand
6 Glasses, informally
7 Luau dance
8 NAACP part
9 How's it going?
10 Seraglio
11 Constructs
12 __ de Cervantes Saavedra
13 Bear claw, e.g.
21 Diner's bill
22 Ample of figure
25 G.I. wear
26 "Inka Dinka __"
27 Degree with teeth
28 Mr. Doe
29 Sci-fi pioneer Verne
30 Pension $$
33 Dog watchdog org.
34 Bit of data
36 Big shots' assistants
37 Temporary auto
38 Reunion invitees
39 LAX info
40 Headstone heading
43 Trouble spot
44 California s motto
45 Steps over fences
47 Cape on the Atlantic
48 Safety balloon?
50 Pet-owner connection
51 Show subservience
53 Parking penalty
54 The __ Reader
55 Ray of "Battle Cry"
56 Lens type
57 Gumbo veggie
58 Tear apart

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	I	A	■	R	I	T	E	■	S	L	A	T	S
N	E	R	D	■	E	G	A	L	■	B	A	R	R	E
T	A	K	E	I	T	O	R	L	E	A	V	E	I	T
■	■	■	S	T	E	R	O	I	D	■	A	N	A	T
A	G	A	T	E	■	■	T	E	S	T	■	A	G	E
L	A	T	E	R	A	L	■	■	■	U	N	S	E	R
A	R	T	■	■	L	A	C	O	S	T	E	■	■	■
■	P	U	T	U	P	O	R	S	H	U	T	U	P	■
■	■	■	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	■	■	P	E	T
P	A	S	T	A	■	■	■	O	D	D	L	O	T	S
R	C	A	■	S	M	E	L	■	■	R	A	N	E	E
U	C	L	A	■	A	C	R	O	B	A	T	■	■	■
D	O	U	B	L	E	O	R	N	O	T	H	I	N	G
E	S	T	E	E	■	L	E	E	R	■	E	C	R	U
S	T	E	L	E	■	I	D	L	E	■	R	E	A	M

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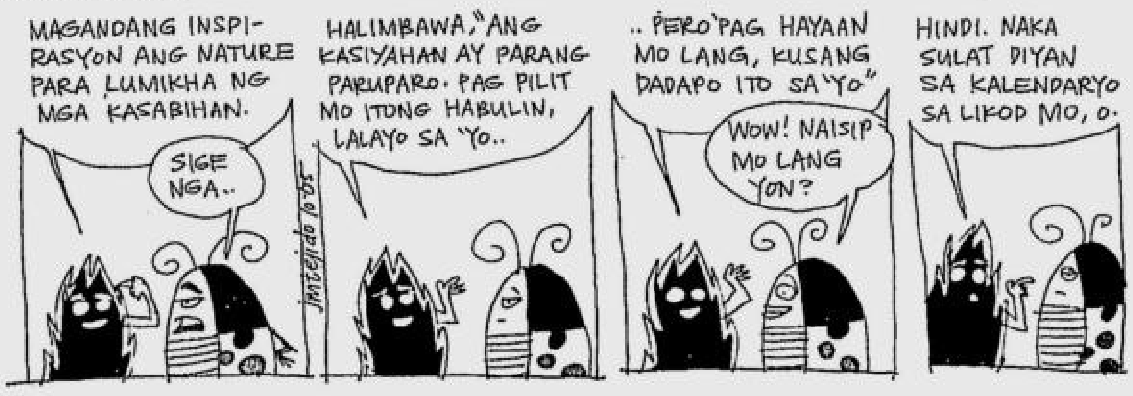
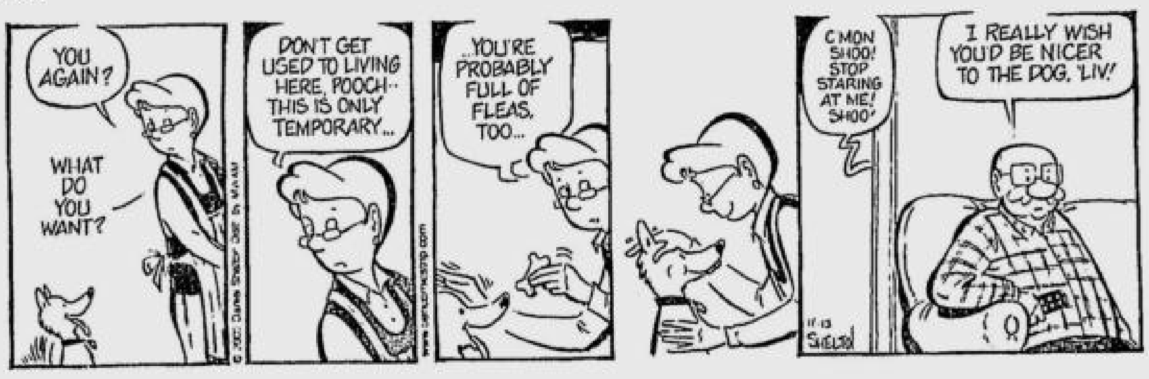
11/10/05

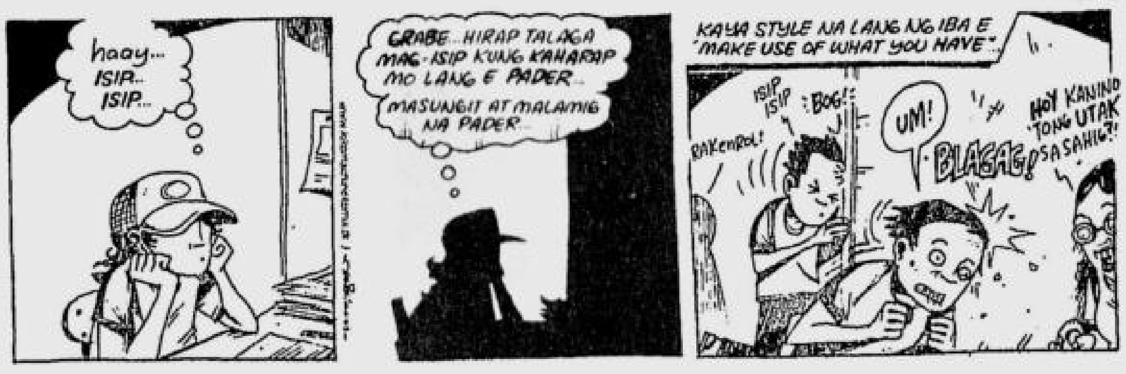
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MAGANDANG INSPIRASYON ANG NATURE PARA LUMIKHA NG MGA KASABIHAN.
SIGE NGA..
HALIMBAWA, "ANG KASIYAHAN AY PARANG PARUPARO. PAG PILIT MO ITONG HABULIN, LALAYO SA 'YO..
.. PERO 'PAG HAYAAN MO LANG, KUSANG DADAPO ITO SA 'YO"
WOW! NAISIP MO LANG YON?
HINDI. NAKA SULAT DIYAN SA KALENDARYO SA LIKOD MO, O.

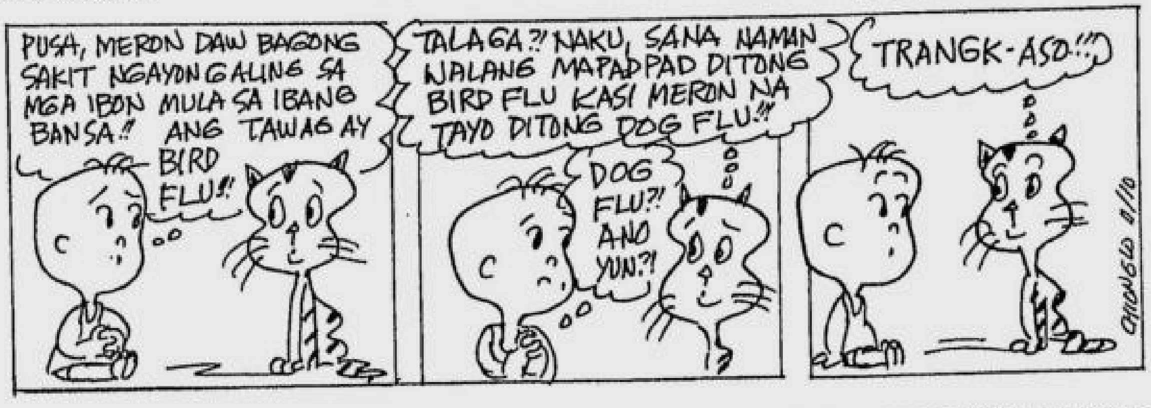
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU AGAIN?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
DON'T GET USED TO LIVING HERE, POOCH... THIS IS ONLY TEMPORARY...
...YOU'RE PROBABLY FULL OF FLEAS, TOO...
C'MON SHOO! STOP STARING AT ME! SHOO!
I REALLY WISH YOU'D BE NICER TO THE DOG, 'LIV!

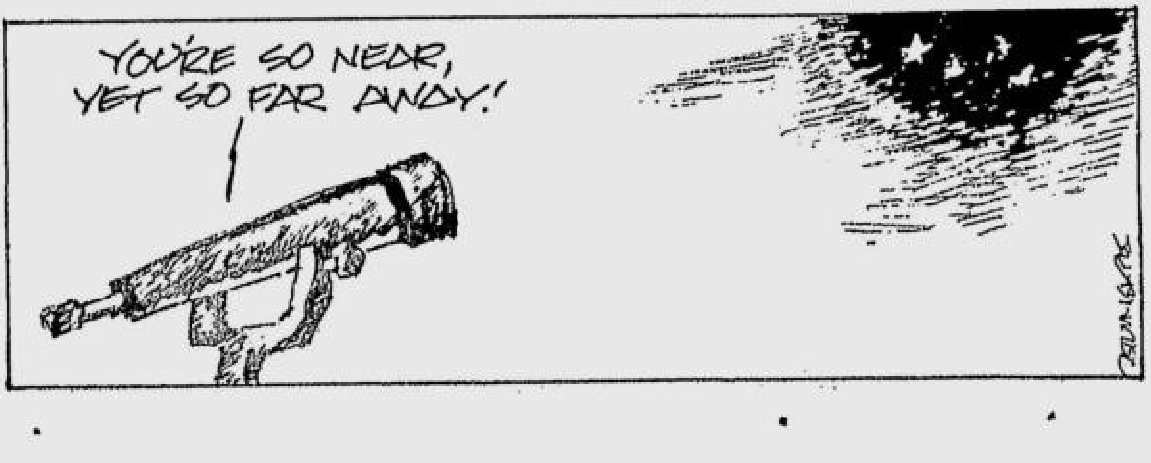
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


haay... ISIP.. ISIP...
GRABE... HIRAP TALAGA MAG-ISIP KUNG KAHARAP MO LANG E PADER...
MASUNGIT AT MALAMIG NA PADER...
KAYA STYLE NA LANG NG IBA E "MAKE USE OF WHAT YOU HAVE".
ISIP ISIP
BOG!
RAKENROL!
UM!
BLAGAG!
HOY KANINO 'TONG UTAK SASAHIG?!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, MERON DAW BAGONG SAKIT NGAYON GALING SA MGA IBON MULA SA IBANG BANSA!! ANG TAWAG AY BIRD FLU!!
TALAGA?! NAKU, SANA NAMAN WALANG MAPADPAD DITONG BIRD FLU KASI MERON NA TAYO DITONG DOG FLU!!
DOG FLU?! ANO YUN?!
TRANGK-ASO!!!
CHIONGLO 11/10

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


YOU'RE SO NEAR, YET SO FAR ANDY!

Resto chain makes November sweet

DINING OUT

THIS NOVEMBER, VISIT ANY LJC RESTAURANT and enjoy the latest offerings. Mango Guayabano Tango, P145+, is a rich blend of two fruits on rum with hints of tea and spiked with grenadine. Its nonalcoholic version is available for only P125+. For the sweet-toothed, Peach Mandarin Roulette is a buttercream-filled chiffon cake studded with poppy seeds and mandarin orange zest. It is topped with slices of white chocolate and peaches. A slice costs P125+ and comes with free coffee or tea. The cool, soothing taste of vodka is showcased in LJC's Smirnoff Kick-Off. Order four Smirnoff Ice bottles for only P199+. Smirnoff Kick-Off promo is available at Café Havana Malate and Gateway, and Café Adriatico Eastwood, Westgate and Gateway. LJC's November offerings are available at any branch of Café Adriatico, Café Havana, Ang Hang, Bistro Remedios, Africana, and In The Mood. Call 5220403.

SOUTH Sea Grill offers fresh specialties that include tuna belly, scallops, white marlin, steamed crabs, spicy *gindaras*, coconut milk crab, squid, prawns, tuna, *gindara*, *tanigue*, mussels and crabs. Apart from seafoods, the restaurant also offers T-bone steak, tenderloin tips, baby back ribs, chicken *Inasal* and ox tongue in white sauce. There are also native delicacies on the menu like *suman at tsokolate*, *minatamis na kamote* and *turon* a la mode. The restaurant is at the G/L Metrowalk Commercial Complex, Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

ENN-YA Yakiniku Restaurant offers authentic Japanese cuisine that specializes in Yakiniku, a Japanese meal of grilled meat cooked on a griddle. Other specialty dishes include Ishiyaki Bibimba (garlic rice, bean sprout, kimchi, spinach, egg and *gochujang* or hot pepper paste), Kaisen Nabe or Seafood Inside Pot with vegetables, *ebi* (prawns), scallops, squid and *tanigue*, tofu, pork and kimchi among others. Enn-ya offers rainy-days promo, eat-all-you-can for only P1,000 on Yakiniku items: Karubi, Liver, Chicken, Mix Vegetables and Tongue. Twenty-percent discount on all soup, *kuppa* and ramen. Enn-ya is open for lunch, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., and dinner, 5-11 p.m. The restaurant is at 806 Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road) Makati City. Call 8156438/6436 to 37.

NOVEMBER OFFERING

Manila Diamond Hotel offers Yurakuen's special dishes like Roasted Salmon and Mushroom Wrapped in Foil, a healthy salmon dish topped with various types of mushrooms; Grilled Salmon with Miso Paste and Mayonnaise; and Yurakuen's Vanilla Ice Cream with Chestnuts. Call 5283000 loc. 1119.

THE RED CRAB Szechuan Crabs sautéed in Szechuan sauce, sweet, spicy and gingery. The Red Crab is at 536 Remedios St., Malate, Manila; 104 Tomas Morato Avenue., Quezon City; 2/L Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center; G/F Shangri-La Mall, Ortigas Center. Call 4009980.

'Lechon Baka' roast and Buffalo wings

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS SCHOOL of Culinary Arts is offering the following classes:

Nov. 11—Roast Beef Lechon Baka Style (all new): Tender chunks of beef, marinated and roasted to perfection; served with sauces and side dishes

Nov. 12—Chicken Wings: The Ultimate Buffalo, Teriyaki, Ginger with Peanut Sauce, Sweet and Spicy, Chili, Garlic with Garlic Sauce, Honey and Soy, Maple Teriyaki; side dishes; dessert

Nov. 16—Roast Chicken from Europe (all new): French Roast with Salade Nicoise, Spanish Roast with Arroz con Tomate, Portuguese Piri-Piri with Portuguese Rice, Italian with Mussel Risotto, Greek with Feta Salad

For inquiries and reservations, call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 0917-8399888.

Prepare a perfect Noche Buena

ENJOY A HASSLE-FREE Christmas.

San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center invites you to "5 Easy Steps to a Perfect Noche Buena with Sylvia, Morella and Ernest Gala," a free cooking and baking demonstration on various easy-to-do yet scrumptious holiday recipes with the country's well-respected family of culinary experts.

Learn simple recipes that will put you in the mood for a happier holiday season 1-4:30 p.m., Nov. 19, at the San Miguel Head Office cafeteria, 40 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City (across SM Mega Mall).

Just bring any three empty assorted wrappers of Magnolia, Purefoods-Hormel, Magnolia Chicken, or Monterey products. For inquiries, call 6719876 loc. 2771, 402, 404 and 405.

PAUL MASSON
California's Best Value Wine
PAUL MASSON
PAUL MASSON

3 ways to enjoy season's savings

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BURGER King's Season's Savings! in three different ways.

First is the basic 10-percent discount. You automatically get P100 off for every P1,000 purchase! Parties booked until Dec. 31 are eligible for this offer.

Second is a five-percent loyalty discount given to those who booked a party with Burger King last year. This is valid for bookings made until Nov. 30, with a minimum purchase of P6,000. With the basic 10-percent discount, you get a total of 15 percent off the price of your purchases.

Third is the Early Birds Surprise. Book early and get P1,000 in gift certificates from Burger King. Just book a Christmas package worth a minimum of P10,000. This offer is valid until Nov. 30. If you are an early bird who also booked a party last year, you get a 15-percent discount in addition to the free gift certificates!

LITTLE SUSHI. An assortment of rice goodies

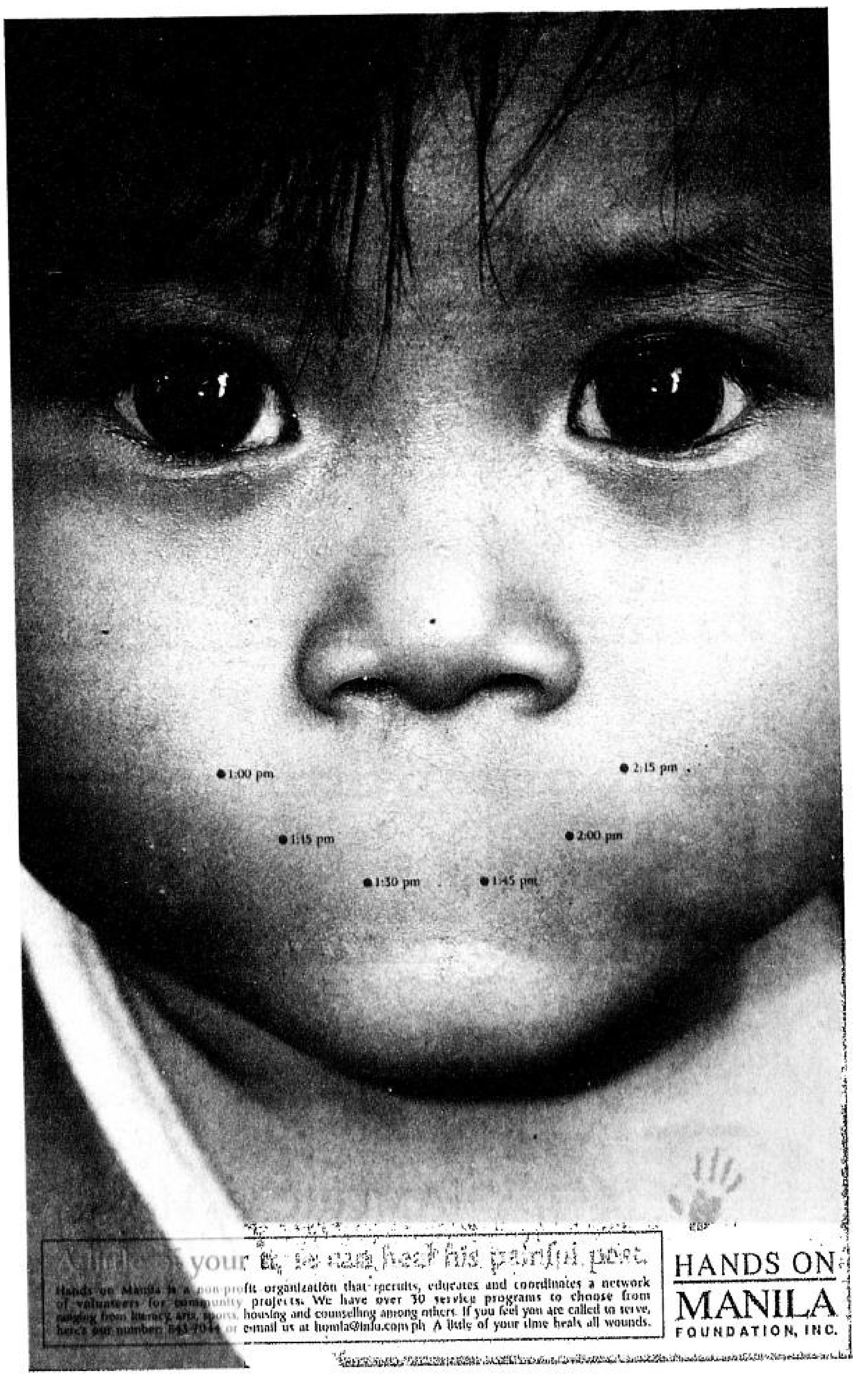
This way to the Japanese buffet

From page D1

Fruit Sushi! Picture sushi but instead of fish atop the rice, you have fruits—dainty slices of strawberries, blueberries, even kiwi! It is very Asian as it is a rice dessert, similar to our *suman* or *bibingka malagkit*. And I even got a confession from the chef that it's not actually a Japanese dessert but a special dessert he created inspired by a Japanese theme. I am a fan of rice desserts and loved this breakthrough. What I liked most about it is that Chef Mac, as he is fondly called, brilliantly wove in the Japanese characteristic of delicate. The rice, which looks like the same rice they use for sushi, is not overpoweringly sticky or sweet, and the fruits are sliced ever so thinly that each bite is just a perfect slice of heaven.

This heaven won't last that long, though. The Japanese Festival is only until the end of the month. So if you want to catch it, better take a detour to Manila soon.

Café Plaza Too of the Westin Philippine Plaza, 551-5555 ext. 1529, is at the CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.



A little of your time can heal his painful past.

Hands on Manila is a non-profit organization that recruits, educates and coordinates a network of volunteers for community projects. We have over 30 service programs to choose from ranging from literacy, arts, sports, housing and counselling among others. If you feel you are called to serve, here's our number: 843-7044 or email us at homla@info.com.ph A little of your time heals all wounds.

HANDS ON MANILA
FOUNDATION, INC.

ATM complaints mount

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

AS EXPECTED, OUR COLUMN LAST week about bank services generated a lot of feedback from readers. In fact, letters are still coming in. We will not be able to use all of them, but we promise to forward the complaints to the concerned banks.

One particular e-mail was an eye-opener. It showed that even in Canada, an automated teller machine (ATM) could fail to dispense cash during a withdrawal transaction, but still deduct the amount from the depositor's account.

In last week's column, we related the experience of a bank depositor who tried to withdraw money from the ATM. She did not get any cash but she got a transaction slip showing that the amount she was trying to withdraw had already been deducted from her account.

The e-mail sender from Canada shares the following experience: "A few days after our arrival here, I opened an ATM account with an initial deposit of US$1,000. That should have been converted to about $1,160 in local currency. Two days later, I withdrew a small amount from the account. You can imagine my shock when the transaction slip reflected that I had only $300 left! Where on earth did my $800 go?

"My husband and I personally went to the bank to find out what happened. The bank personnel tried to explain that 'they just had to update the system.' End of the story. If it happens there in the Philippines, it can happen here, too!"

Offline woes

Doy Valbuena of Davao City is calling on lawmakers, banking sector and telecommunications officials to do something to improve the country's ATM system. The system was antiquated, he said. Basic security measures were not even in place such as terminating transactions when a network bank is offline.

He related how he fought a losing battle with the local branches of the Bank of the Philippine Islands and Land Bank of the Philippines after being unable to get the cash he tried to withdraw from an ATM.

At about 6 p.m. on Sept. 12, he twice tried to withdraw money from BPI (Lanang branch) using a Land Bank (he has an account with the Bajada branch) ATM card. He found out later that the transaction failed because the Land Bank system was offline.

He had to go out of town the following day and it was only on Sept. 17 when he tried the ATM again. He discovered that the amount he tried to withdraw earlier was deducted from his account on Sept. 13.

He asked, "Could it be possible that the BPI ATM dispensed the cash when Land Bank went online, and somebody else who was lucky enough to be there picked up the money? Or could somebody in the ATM system or an outsider with connection inside the bank be making a killing from situations like this?"

Valbuena recounted the ordeal he experienced when he filed his complaint. BPI Manila eventually concluded that cash was dispensed and showed the client the printout to prove it.

What consumers can do

Valbuena's experience spurred him to launch a crusade to "reform the ATM system," as he put it. In his letter, he said he was going to appear on local television to present his ATM experience and point out the flaws and problems affecting the system.

For a start, he gave the following tip to other bank clients: "A person who also had the same experience said she was advised by a bank manager that, before any ATM withdrawal, she should key in the balance inquiry-prompt to find out if the system was working."

He also started a survey of ATM users to find out their problems, complaints and suggestions on how to improve the system. Those interested can get a copy of the form or share their views by writing to doyval@yahoo.com.

Welcome input

Some time ago, we received a letter from Felicito Q. Abiva (feltawp@info.com.ph) on the lack of legislation to control credit card abuses. Among other concerns, he mentioned the credit card companies' high interest rates and penalty for unsettled accounts. "How can creditors keep up with payments for back accounts when [banks] make it next to impossible?" he wrote.

Abiva also sent a news report on what Thailand's central bank did to regulate the credit card industry.

Help them

The late President Ramon Magsaysay said, those who had less in life should have more in law. The Bible says to whom much is given much is required. I urge all concerned and kindhearted Filipinos to do everything in their power to help protect poor and small depositors, especially pensioners, retirees, government workers and low-income earners. God bless us all!

Sweet gifts for Christmas

IF YOU WANT TO GIVE HOMEMADE GIFTS this Christmas, enroll in "Sweet Treats," 3-6 p.m., Nov 12, and learn to make Fruitcake Bars, Boat Tarts, Food for the Gods, Almond Roca, Pastillas de Leche and Pulvoron. Coasting and packaging are also included.

Also at 3-6 p.m. is the "Japanese Cooking" class which will include Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi, assorted Nigiri and Sushi, Kappamaki, Tekamaki and California maki. Participants get a free Japanese cookbook

Learn "Basic Cake Decorating," 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Nov. 12 and 19.

The class will cover the fundamentals of cake decorating: coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flowers including bunching techniques. Individual workshop on icing application and cake designing are included.

"Basic Baking" will be offered 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Nov. 15-18. It will include standard techniques in baking different types of bread dough, quick breads, pastry dough and cookies, cakes and ready mixes. Participants get a free cookbook.

Learn how to start a food business with "Catering," 3-6 p.m., Nov. 16-18. The class includes actual cooking of Stuffed Chicken Thighs, Vegetable Samosa, Spicy Chicken Wings, Eggplant Skordalia and Quiche Lorraine. Participants get a catering cookbook for free.

Maya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday) is at 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 8921185 or 8925011 loc. 108. E-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph

2 experts, 1 special session

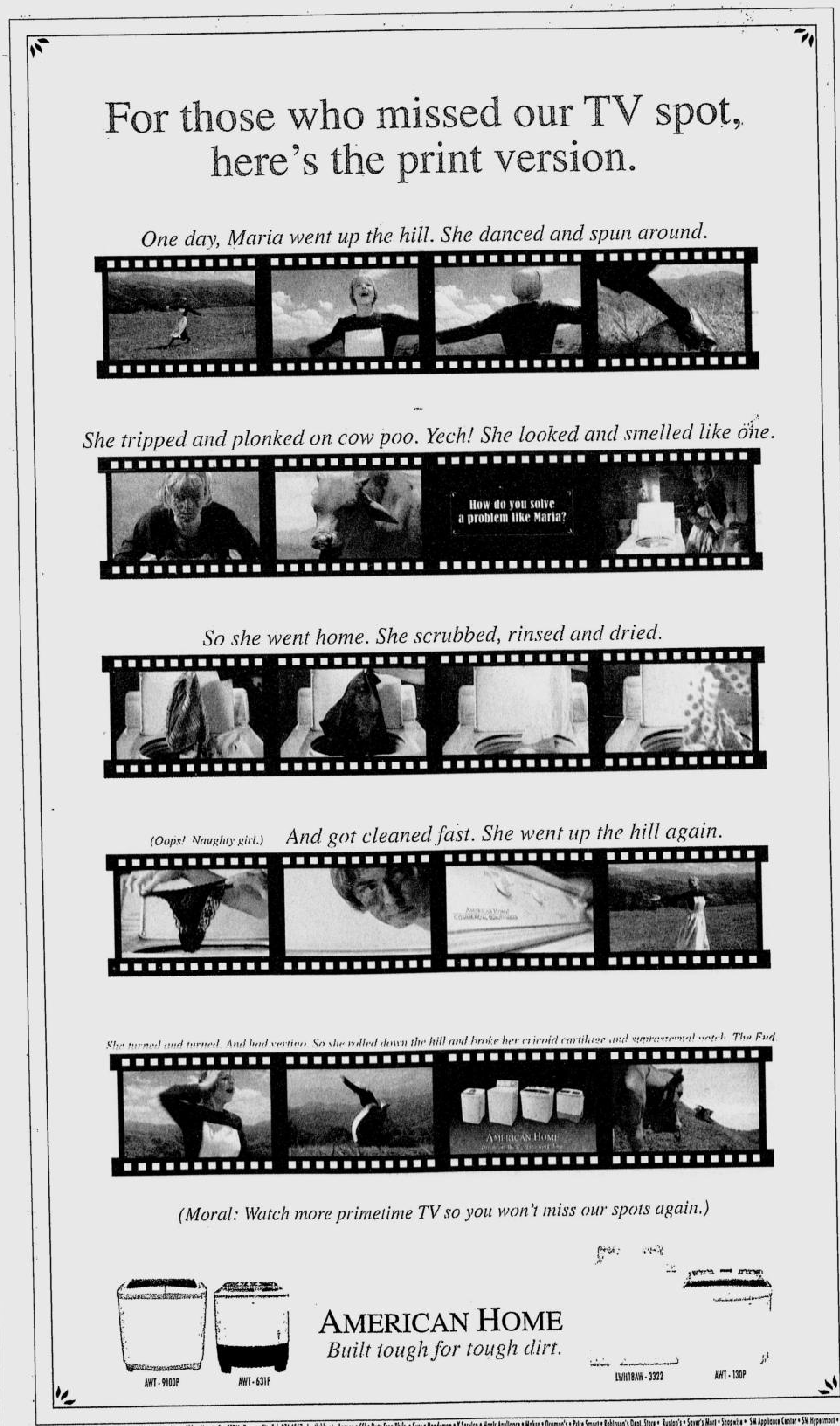
FRENCH BAKER CEO AND FOUNDER Johnlu Koa and culinary expert Sylvia Reynoso-Gala team up for another special cooking and baking session 2 p.m., Nov. 11, at Gala's cooking and baking studio at 181 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City.

Koa, who has given a series of lectures at several academic institutions, became a guest trainer when he visited Gala's culinary school. Since then, Koa has been frequenting Gala's for their "special yet practical" sessions in the kitchen.

The lessons will cover local favorites, such as Baguio's Famous Raisin Bread, Cheese Bread, the ol' American Tasty, and the popular Baked Pandesal. Honey Bread, Buttered Cream and Super Soft Caramelized Bread will be prepared for people with a sweet tooth.

Koa will also provide helpful kitchen tips even as he whips up special treats and hones the students' culinary skills. Participants will be able to learn more about baking mathematics, necessary for a successful baking business, and understand the role of proper baking ingredients straight from the "French baker."

The French Baker now has 30 stores in and around Metro Manila including two in Metro Cebu, Pampanga and Dasmariñas, Cavite.


For those who missed our TV spot, here's the print version.

One day, Maria went up the hill. She danced and spun around.

She tripped and plonked on cow poo. Yech! She looked and smelled like one.

So she went home. She scrubbed, rinsed and dried.

(Oops! Naughty girl.) And got cleaned fast. She went up the hill again.

She turned and turned. And had vertigo. So she rolled down the hill and broke her cricoid cartilage and suprasternal notch. The End.

(Moral: Watch more primetime TV so you won't miss our spots again.)

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Messages

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AWARDEES OF THE 26TH Agora Awards of the Philippine Marketing Association.

Recently, I had opportunity to congratulate some companies and organizations that have excelled in marketing. Together with the individuals we are honoring today, they comprise the creative minds that contribute in turning the wheels of the economy.

By keenly studying the market, innovating and striving for excellence, this year's awardees have shown us how to excel in a highly competitive environment. Working for their clients and organizations, they have been successful in establishing market presence and high customer confidence, among others, which in turn benefited consumers in terms of high product quality.

I call on the people behind this award and the winners to continue striving for excellence in marketing. This is your contribution as we embark on the second phase of our quest to beat the odds and win the war against poverty. Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

THE AGORA AWARDS IS THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARD given to a marketing professional or a company. It is the only award given by the Philippine Marketing Association, and serves as the epitome of outstanding achievement in the field of marketing. The winners of this year's Agora Awards had to provide proof that they are deserving of earning the Agora name by convincing a panel of respectable judges who were once Agora Awardees. The Agora Awards showcase the ingenuity and innovativeness of Filipino marketers that allowed them and their companies to stand out in this time of competitively converging markets and industries. In a time of political and economic challenges, we turn to these awardees to serve as our lights and inspiration in the field of marketing.

I would like to thank this year's team behind the Agora Awards, and the board of judges who took time out to help us determine the winners. It was definitely these people behind the Agora Awards that made this annual event possible. I salute the board of judges for taking time out of their busy schedules to step up and deliberate until the wee hours of the night to determine the winner. Truly, it takes more than market leadership, good financial records, and industry status to win an Agora. This year's judges would always go back and ask themselves if the candidates are really the symbol of marketing excellence. And I can proudly say that, indeed, for this year's winners, they are!

Congratulations to this year's Agora Awardees, and may you continue to be a beacon of Philippine marketing excellence in the years to come.

DONALD PATRICK L. LIM
President
PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION

THERE IS ENORMOUS SATISFACTION IN BEING PART OF THE Agora Awards.

As Director-in-Charge this year, the challenge was to maintain the very high standards that have been set for the Agora. This involved the meticulous scrutiny of the criteria to check if the standards can be elevated even more, the selection of category heads that will painstakingly review nominees to shortlist only the outstanding ones, and the choice of the Board of Judges who will be uncompromising and vigilant in ensuring that only the best are honored with the much-coveted Agora Awards.

With an outstanding group of Awardees for this year who represent the cream of the crop in the marketing profession, the members of the organizing committee take pleasure in rising to the challenge with our contribution to the further enrichment of the Agora legacy.

TOM C. BANGUIS, JR.
Director-in-Charge
2005 Agora Awards

JUDGING AGORA IS AN extremely rewarding experience for all of us members of the panel of judges.

In evaluating entries for the different categories, one can't help but be bullish about our country.

Filipino entrepreneurship and marketing innovations pervade in many industries of our private sector.

The culture of excellence is vibrant in individuals and companies that were adjudged Agora winners.

Marketing savvy and sales impact was demonstrated in brilliant brand positioning and value-adding consumer communications.

Most of all, impressive bottom lines, high market shares growth, and maximized revenues spoke volumes on the competitiveness of all the winners.

Congratulations to all the winners!

May your tribe increase.

MINYONG ORDOÑEZ
Chairman of the Board of Judges
Agora Awards 2005

Agora Awards 2005: Setting the benchmark for Philippine marketing

IT IS ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR THE 2005 AGORA Awards. Slated on November 10, 2005 at the Rizal Ballroom in Shangri-la Makati, Philippine Marketing Association's official award-giving body will once again recognize the Filipinos' expertise in the field of marketing.

Now on its 26th year of bestowing distinction to exceedingly adept and competent Filipinos and Filipino companies in the marketing industry, the Agora Awards is the longest running recognition body for marketing excellence in the country.

As the Philippines gears up for globalization, the country becomes accustomed to a more stringent standard of performance. Given this occurrence, it is nothing but apt that this year's Agora Awards embrace the theme "World-Class Excellence in Philippine Marketing." This is also in connection with Philippine Marketing Association's intention to lead in rejoicing and hailing the achievements of Filipino outstanding marketers that incessantly display superior performance both in the local and international scenes.

Qualified nominees to the Agora Awards undergo a comprehensive screening process by the Search Committee and a series of thorough deliberation amongst members of a strictly selected honorable Board of Judges, who themselves have at one time or another been Agora Award recipients in the past.

The rigid process of selection of finalists and winners is an indication that Agora awardees are living testimonies to the claim that the Filipinos' skills in marketing are of world-class quality, thus, corresponding to the theme for this year.

To be an Agora Awards recipient signifies being in the caliber of the likes of Jollibee's Tony Tan Caktiong, National Bookstores' Socorro Ramos, Splash's Rolando Hortaleza, and Shoemart's Henry Sy, who are some of the prominent Agora awardees that have tremendously excelled in their respective industries and constantly serve as advocates for development.

The seven categories included in the search are Marketing Company of the Year, Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship, Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Management, Outstanding Achievement in Export Marketing, Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Education, the Asia Pacific Agora Awards for Marketing Excellence and Outstanding Achievement in Advocacy Marketing.

2005 AGORA AWARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Seated (from left): Tom Banguis, director-in-charge; Mylene Abiva-Sazon, over-all chairperson; Donald Lim, PMA president. Standing (from left) Bobby Dimayuga, category head, export marketing; Edith Dy-Chiao, category head, marketing company; Mon Garcia, category head, marketing education and Gennie de Guia, category head, Asia Pacific, marketing excellence.

2005 Agora Awards Concept

THIS YEAR'S AGORA AWARDS WILL REvisit the legacies that our countrymen have given our nation with the hope of rekindling nationalism.

This year, Agora hopes the admirable qualities of Filipino versatility, innovation, and ingenuity that raise the bar for Filipinos as world-class achievers in the field of marketing, would be comparable if not better than their international counterparts.

With the theme, "World-Class Filipino Excellence in Philippine Marketing", the 26th Agora Awards confirms that we, indeed, are a truly world-class and talented people. And that collectively, we can harness our skills and talents into building a better nation…

So that proudly, we can stand up and proclaim that… We are Filipinos!

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2005 Agora Awards Winners

Marketing Company of the Year

The way to a customer's heart: Chowking's 'Braveheart' marketing

BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL COMPANY IS A GREAT marketing story waiting to be told. In the case of Chowking, the story starts the day it was born. As far as traditional Filipino dining experience goes, Rudyard Kipling's classic line, "East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet" still resonates. Filipinos trooped to the corner restaurants in Binondo's Chinatown for a bowl of noodle soup and dimsum; they stopped by the nearest hamburger store for a slice of American life with cheese and fries.

That is, until 1985 when Chowking Food Corporation entered the market and did what was once unthinkable: to make East and West meet right at its store.

Pioneering the quick-service (QSR) Oriental restaurant concept, Chowking offered steaming hot and delicious Chinese food served fast food-style by a smiling and friendly crew. Its stores donned bright and dynamic colors usually associated with American diners.

It was an innovation only a company that knows what it stands for, what it can offer, and what it can offer best would take. From its birth, Chowking was already blazing the trail with the bravest of hearts.

"Trailblazers take on the greatest risk, but they are also poised to reap the greatest reward," says Chowking's president and CEO Raffy dela Rosa.

Looking at how it has grown over the years, the Chowking story is nothing short of phenomenal. In just five years, Chowking more than tripled its annual sales to P7.2 billion in 2004 from P1.9 billion in end 1999 when the company joined the Jollibee Group of Companies.

Next to Jollibee, Chowking now leads fast food establishments in the store count with 316 Philippine stores as a result of its financial viability in key cities and sites nationwide. It has also started its aggressive global foray by recently setting up three stores in Indonesia in addition to its eight stores in the United States and four in the United Arab Emirates.

The 'FSC' way

"When we took over Chowking in 2000, we worked on turning the company around. To do this, we had to answer: 'what would make the customer want us?'" Dela Rosa says. "The answer ultimately led us to our mission: to delight the customer."

Chowking applied a very simple formula: FSC (where F" stands for food, "S" for service, and "C" for cleanliness). All aspects of the business— from operations to support services—are measured by these three standards. For its customers to know what Chowking truly stands for, the company relied heavily on marketing. "Everything we did—from the boardroom to the stores, from the commissary to the kitchen, and from the crew to the table—bore the touch of marketing. All our actions were premised on what will make the customer happy," Dela Rosa says.

What made Chowking a marketing success was the involvement of everyone in the company—from the CEO to the chefs, to the commissary, down to the stores. Everybody markets "brand Chowking"— from the culture to the smile.

Out of the Chinese box

The men and women who drove the brand made sure Chowking was not just always a step ahead. They also took seriously the two Chinese characters beside the company's logo, which, translated in English, mean "a cut above the rest." To do this, the company employed some "out-of-the-box" thinking.

It took a long hard look at its products and designed a product pipeline that would continually keep its customers coming back for more, for all parts of the day—breakfast, lunch, merienda (midday snack), dinner, and late dinner. Chowking relied heavily on the recommendations of its two Chinese chefs who never ran out of delicious food concepts. The brand even created a New Products Board, a group headed by the CEO himself in charge of creating new and exciting offerings and as needed, re-engineering of the existing ones.

Chowking advertisements were also designed and executed out of the ordinary. Instead of relying on celebrity endorsers, Chowking focused the spotlight on its biggest star: its mouth-watering Chinese food. Special cameras, not normally used by its competitors, were used during TV commercial productions to differentiate the look and feel of Chowking materials. With the images shown in very slow speed, viewers can almost smell and taste the steam coming out of a bowl of noodles. The image is strong enough to stimulate the eye and whet the appetite of every viewer who will most likely troop to the nearest Chowking store.

Chowking also used non-traditional advertising and relied heavily on outdoor ads to trigger product desire at points of purchase. It even defied convention and put up billboards and signages in places where there used to be none—at the roof of its stores, in front of gas stations and in areas that cannot hold big boards. As a result, the sales of Chowking stores with non-traditional outdoor advertising support have been hitting targets consistently.

Chowking also invested in in-store merchandising and even tapped one of the world's best menu board designers to make the Chowking menu board. The strategy paid off as customer visits and spending per transaction increased due to the variety of delectable dishes displayed in the menu boards.

A latest innovation is the introduction of the open kitchen in Chowking stores. The innovative merchandising concept was adopted to show Chowking customers how the food they ordered are prepared and cooked right in the store, and that every Chowking store adheres to strict standards of cleanliness.

Consistent with its thrust of providing only the products of world-class quality, Chowking invested heavily in the automation of its production facility in Sucat. The facility even won accolades such as the "Most Outstanding Meat Processing Plant" in the National Capital Region for 2005 and a number of "Awards of Excellence" in sanitation from the City Government of Muntinlupa. To ensure distribution efficiency in its nationwide network, a number of depots are strategically located in the three island groups.

Another in-store marketing innovation is piped-in radio programming. Every store is tuned in to "Chowking Radio" that regularly plays product plugs and enticed in-store customers to come back for a visit or watch out for a new product about to be launched. Chowking Radio helped boost the company's sales as repetitive messages entice customers to frequently visit stores and raise their propensity to buy.

While every groundbreaking idea spawned a rash of imitations, Chowking believes it is only by moving fast and moving forward could it remain ahead of the game.

"These are market fundamentals that allowed us to compete in an environment that gets tougher as we go," Dela Rosa says. And as "Marketing Company of the Year" in the 2005 Agora Awards, "We believe that with sheer dedication, hard work and some luck, we can compete head-on with global brands in foreign markets as well."

STORE MAKEOVERS. Chowking invested to markedly improve the appearance of its stores. Nearly all stores now don bright, new and lively colors (salmon yellow, royal blue, light red), the distinctive swirl design and have adopted the 'open kitchen concept,' such as this mall-based store inside the newly opened SM San Lazaro in Manila.

Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Education

Jerome 'Jerry' G. Kliatchko
Assistant Professor
University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P).

JEROME "JERRY" G. KLIATCHKO IS A DOCtor of Public Communication, summa cum laude, from the University of Navarre in Pamplona, Spain. His doctoral dissertation in 2001 was a study on the understanding, acceptance and practice of Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) among professionals in advertising agencies and client organizations in the Philippines.

Kliatchko is the executive director of the Institute of Communication and Management Committee member of the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P). He is also the program director of the Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) program at UA&P. Under his leadership, UA&P pioneered in introducing IMC graduate education in the Philippines. His book "Understanding Integrated Marketing Communications" was published in the Philippines in 2002.

Kliatchko is the founder of the Integrated Marketing Communications Effectiveness Awards (IMCEA) launched in July 2005. He is also the founder of the Asia-Pacific Academy of Integrated Marketing Communications (APA-IMC).

He has done consulting work in the area of IMC for client companies and advertising agencies with affiliate offices around the Asian region. He is also a lecturer on IMC at the Institute for Media and Entertainment, New York. He also lectures and holds seminars on IMC and Business Communication. Before joining the academe in the late 1980s, he was a practitioner in the fields of public relations and advertising.

Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Management

Grace del Rosario-Castaño
President and Managing Director
Johnson & Johnson (Phils.) Inc.

A MAGNA CUM LAUDE GRADUATE OF THE University of the Philippines, Grace Castaño first joined Johnson & Johnson in 1990 after a stint at Unilever. Over the years, Grace has served as the ultimate model of success to marketing professionals in the company, having worked her way up from Product Manager to her current role of President and Managing Director of the Philippine consumer business.

Grace's illustrious marketing career includes a Business Development Manager post in the New Jersey headquarters of Johnson & Johnson, as well as a concurrent role of Managing Director of J&J Indonesia and Vice President of Women's Health for Asean. All throughout, her numerous stints are marked with successful product launches and impressive market share and sales growth.

August 2000 saw Grace going on a two-year hiatus pursuing personal and family interests. The mother of two boys, she took this opportunity to devote more time to her family, while still managing to run a successful business of her own.

In 2002, Grace re-joined J&J Philippines as President and Managing Director. Grace's key accomplishments during this time include consistently growing sales volume and record high market shares in key brands such as Modess, Johnson's Baby Bath, Johnson's Baby Oil and Johnson's Baby Powder. Her broad-based exposure to all major franchises and keen marketing sense proved to be instrumental in the introduction of triumphant brand strategies that ultimately helped secure Johnson & Johnson's place in the market.

Perhaps one of the greatest tributes to Grace's leadership is the prestigious Raul Locsin Awards for Business Excellence, which conferred the People First award to Johnson & Johnson Philippines in September 2004. The accolade bespeaks of Grace's well-roundedness, having expanded her marketing wings to embrace all facets of the sales and marketing business.

Outstanding Achievement in Advocacy Marketing

Ronald McDonald House Charities

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES advocates for the Rights of the Child through programs that work for the child's education, shelter and happiness:

Bright Minds Read. A partnership program with the Department of Education-NCR that aims to develop beginning reading curricula and tools for public school children. BMR kits are now being used in NCR and select provincial public schools where a McDonald's restaurant is present—Baguio, Davao and Cebu. BMR has designed a new curriculum tool for Grade 1 and 2 students, and is currently developing a program for Grade 3 students. A BMR kit—consisting of 32 storybooks, the teacher's lesson plan and the student's worksheet—costs P11,200 each. RMHC is currently working on a collaboration to produce BMR kits for 37,200 public schools nationwide by 2008. The program is now on its third year or halfway through the six-year commitment of McDonald's.

Bahay Bulilit. A partnership program with the Department of Social Welfare and Development that builds day-care centers in depressed areas to give primary education to children under six years old. The local government contributes in terms of land; the community oversees in the day-to-day operation; DSWD supervises the educational component; and McDonald's puts in P1.3 million to build the center. There are six Bahay Bulilit in the following cities: Makati, Mandaluyong, Quezon City, Manila, Pasay and Zamboanga. McDonald's is committed to build 5 new centers yearly.

Bayan Ko, Love Ko. A partnership program with the Gawad Kalinga to help build homes in slum areas so that children in these impoverished communities can have a better life and future. McDonald's is building a McDonald's village at Hapay Na Mangga in Taytay, Rizal. The vision is to build 100 new homes for 100 families with some 300 children-beneficiaries. To date, McDonald's has already built 60 homes.

Source of funding for RMHC

McDonald's contributes 50 centavos to RMHC for every Happy Meal sold, and raises funds through other activities: charity ball, golf tournament, sticker selling and canisters.

Kenneth Yang is the Managing Director of McDonald's and President of the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

SAN MIGUEL

BEING THE SOCIAL development arm of one of Asia Pacific's biggest food, beverage and packaging company, San Miguel Foundation's initiatives reflect San Miguel's strong belief in contributing its fair share towards the improvement of the quality of life in the communities where it operates.

Established in 1972, San Miguel Foundation's projects evolved after 32 years of operation. Its areas of interest focus on community development, education, environment, enterprise and disaster management. SMC's divisions and subsidiaries have implemented social development programs that respond to the needs of their various stakeholders.

SMF partners with people and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of community development projects. The approach is wholistic and integrated where community residents are involved from social preparation to project implementation and monitoring.

Another major initiative of SMF is on livelihood. Its "Hanapbuhay, Habang-buhay" program provides interest-free loans to help SMF's communities' access to fund facilities that would help them bring to reality their goal of augmenting their income, thereby improving their lives and that of their families.

SMF believes that providing education is one way of empowering a person to become a better individual. The community scholarship program does not only provide quality education but also develop their personal skills through conferences and community service.

SMF embarks on the protection and preservation of the environment. Projects include forest and mangrove reforestation, river rehabilitation and coastal clean-up. Teaching the youth on environmental awareness was done through trainings of High School student leaders. SMF's support to the country's Solid Waste Management efforts can be seen in the PET Recycling Project which already tapped 650 public schools. This campaign resulted in the collection of more than 8.4 million PET bottles, which is equivalent to 23,000 cubic meters of landfill space freed.

As SMC Chairman Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr said in his message in the social development brochure of the company, "Social Responsibility is a commitment we pursue for the long term as we continue to honor our social covenant with our key publics. It is our corporate character."

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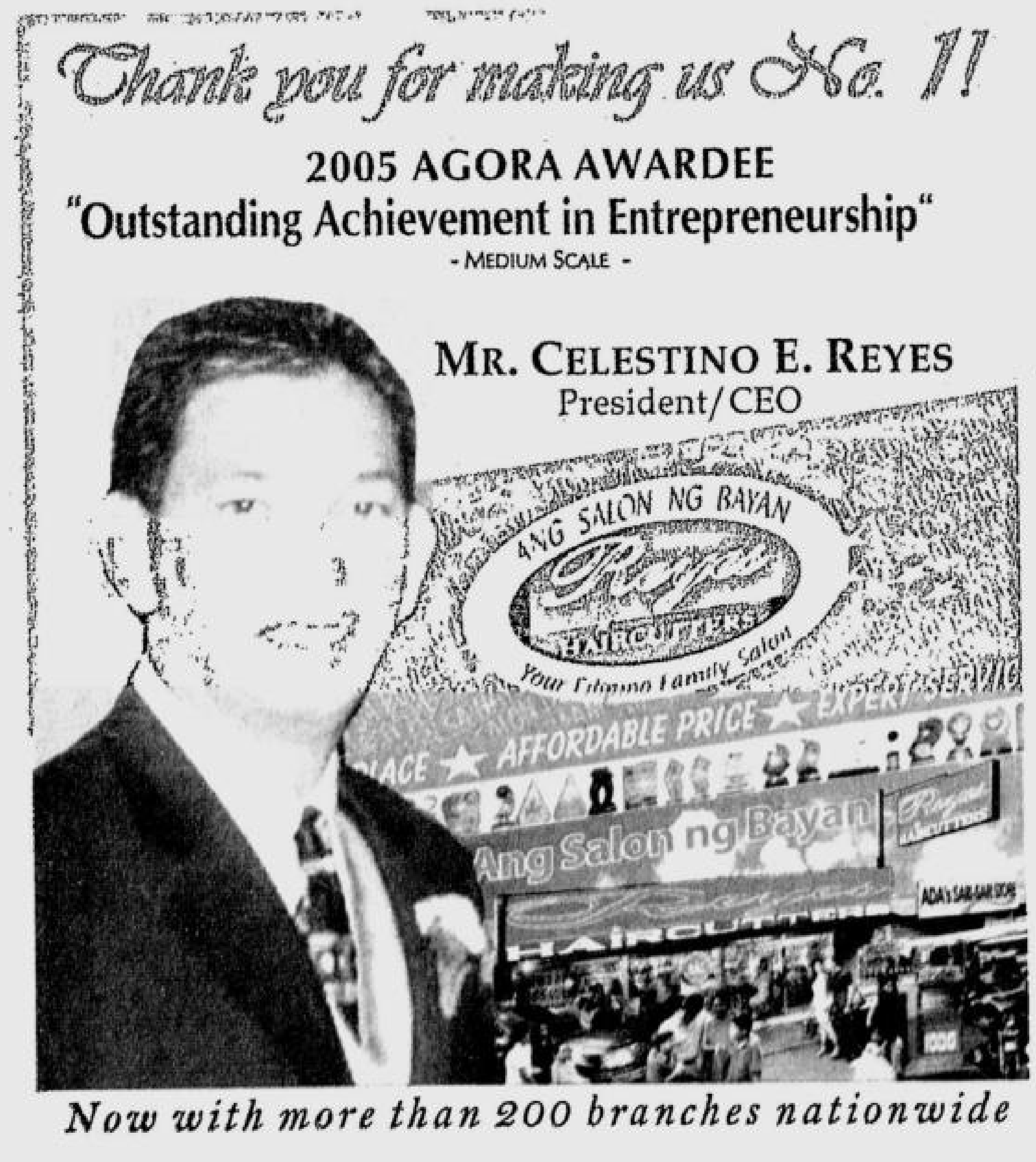

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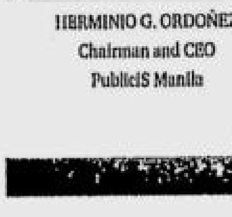

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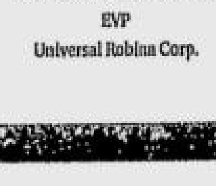

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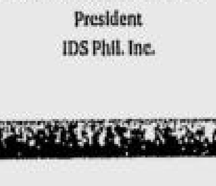

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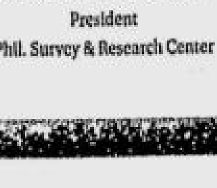

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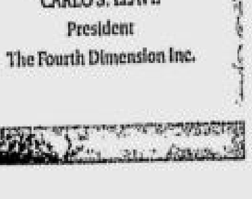

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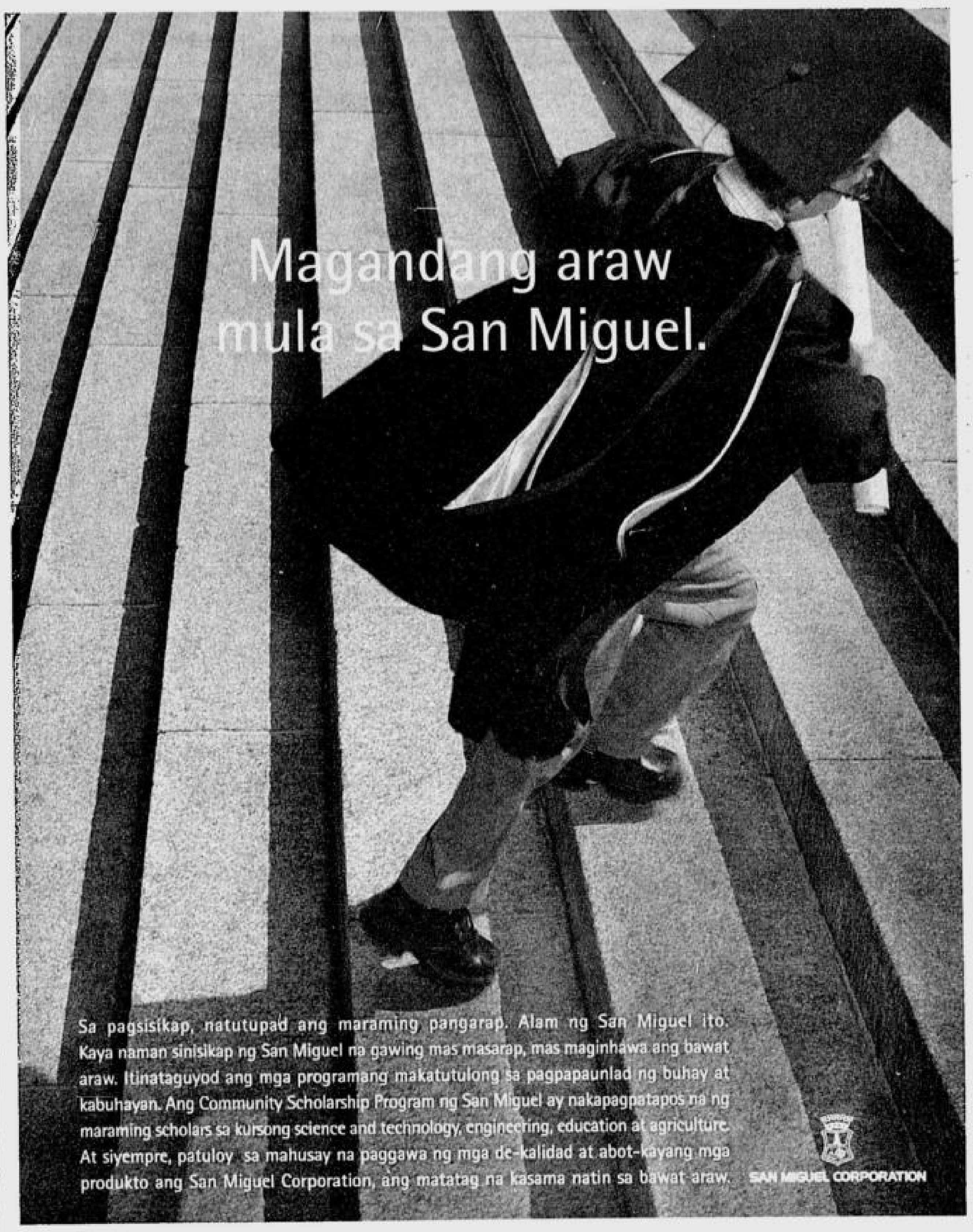

Sa pagsisikap, natutupad ang maraming pangarap. Alam ng San Miguel ito. Kaya naman sinisikap ng San Miguel na gawing mas masarap, mas maginhawa ang bawat araw. Itinataguyod ang mga programang makatutulong sa pagpapaunlad ng buhay at kabuhayan. Ang Community Scholarship Program ng San Miguel ay nakapagpatapos na ng maraming scholars sa kursong science and technology, engineering, education at agriculture. At siyempre, patuloy sa mahusay na paggawa ng mga de-kalidad at abot-kayang mga produkto ang San Miguel Corporation, ang matatag na kasama natin sa bawat araw.

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Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship - Medium Scale

From page E2

Nursing every Filipino nurses' dream

PROFESSOR RICARTE A. GAPUZ, JR. is an academically gifted nurse. He is a topnotcher in the Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination. He is a Summa Cum Laude of the University of Sto. Tomas. He finished his Masters' degree in nursing in the same university with a record of being the first psychiatric nursing major to obtain a perfect grade in thesis defense. He passed all the required exams for foreign employment, the CGFNS, TOEFL, and NCLEX. He obtained a license to practice his profession in the United States of America, but unlike most Filipino nurses, he opted to stay in the country and establish the International Review Network of RA Gapuz Review Center Inc.

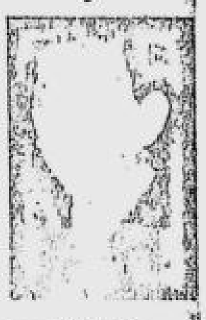
Ray, as his friends call him, started his center with three students in 1994 in the province of Pangasinan. Now, the company has expanded to five main branches and 15 franchised branches strategically located nationwide catering to the needs of nurses in various parts of the country.

Being at the forefront of the Philippine nursing review arena, Ray has continuously introduced innovations in nursing review programs, foremost of which is the TIPS—Total Innovative Personalized Supplemental review that has shortened the traditional three-month nursing review course into 10 days and still produced a higher passing percentage for Filipino nurses. He has authored a review book, "The ABCs of Passing Foreign Nursing Exams" which has been sold worldwide. He also released the first Filipino-authored interactive CD Nursing reviewer and was the first Filipino to have been invited to conduct review classes for nurses in Europe.

His entrepreneurial career is capped by his numerous awards, the most notable of which are: 2005 Parangal ng Bayan's Most Outstanding Filipino Achiever for Entrepreneurship; 2004 Who's Who in the Philippines Your Professional Award for Entrepreneurship and 2004 Entrepreneur Philippines' Ten Most Outstanding Filipino Entrepreneurs. He was also one of the youngest finalists in the 2004 Ernst and Young search for Entrepreneur of the Year Philippines.

Ray, at 33, is the youngest among the country's delegates to the First World Entrepreneurs' Summit 2005 in Singapore. His mission: "To enable Filipino nurses to realize that Nursing combined with Entrepreneurship is a viable alternative to overseas employment."

A cutting-edge leader in the salon industry



LES REYES IS THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF executive officer of the Reyes Hair Company International Inc, the franchise company of the Reyes Haircutters (RHC) Salon Chain, now with 205 operational branches nationwide. Being ahead of its competitors in myriad ways, RHC has become the cutting-edge leader in the personal care industry and continues to gain the recognition in the business community.

From his humble beginnings, Reyes learned to start early in business. At the age of 10, he already sold anything from newspapers, ice candy, cigarettes and hung around the wet market to sell vegetables. As a former overseas Filipino worker in the United States, he was able to try different jobs, from being a gasoline boy, waiter, sales agent, to finally serving the US Navy for 10 years. Reyes felt that working in his own country would be better than serving other nationalities, so finally he came back to the Philippines to start his own business.

Following the Reyes' passion for beauty, he started his salon business in 1991 as Xristian Reyes and changed the name to Reyes Haircutters. With the change of name, he positioned RHC as the "Salon ng Bayan"—a salon for every member of the family offering a variety of excellent services rendered by competent and highly-trained staff at reasonable prices. Using a classy salon design with all the amenities complemented with prominent price stickers on the front glass panel to lure hesitant customers never failed to establish its strong presence in the market. RHC then revolutionized the image of the salon industry from a thing of luxury to a service-oriented segment in the society.

Soon after, Reyes Haircutters opened its door to franchising to enable it to share the secrets of its business and branding success to entrepreneurs who have the same passion for customers service. Chosen as one of the 2003's Top 10 Entrepreneurs of the Philippines, Reyes has various Business Management training from UP Diliman and Ateneo de Manila. He just recently finished the Masters of Entrepreneurship Course at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), and will also be receiving his degree from the International Institute for Franchise Education as a Certified Franchise Executive in Palm Springs, California in February 2006.

Franchising not only paved the way for realizing his dreams it also fulfilled his hope of helping his *kababayans* to earn a living by making others look and feel good all the time. With only four years in the franchising industry, Reyes Haircutters has created more than 2000 jobs nationwide, providing its employees free skills training.

Today, Reyes is advocating the certification and licensing of all the salon practitioners in the country, believing that Filipinos are true artists at heart. This move would promote not only excellence in quality service but to also make Filipino hairdressers and beauticians be even more competitive in the international arena.

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1. REGISTRATION
- 26TH AGORA AWARD WINNERS' EXHIBIT
- CARLOS P. ESGUERRA INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING WORKS ON EXHIBIT

2. INVOCATION

3. PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ANTHEM

4. WELCOME ADDRESS - Director for Agora Awards, Mr. Tom C. Banguis

5. OPENING NUMBER: Philippine Barangay Folk Dance Troupe

6. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Mr. Donald Patrick Lim

7. SPECIAL AGORA TRIBUTE: 2005 EVP, Ms. Pamela Sanchez-Adriano

8. Banquet Parade/ DINNER

9. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD OF JUDGES/ COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Overall Chairperson 26th Agora Awards, Ms. Mylene Abiva-Sazon

10. OPENING SALVO: Center for Pop Music Philippines

11. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN MARKETING EDUCATION

12. THE JOHN LESACA SERENADE

13. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP (MEDIUM SCALE)

14. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP (MEDIUM SCALE)

15. Center for Pop Music Philippines tribute to LEA SALONGA

16. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ADVOCACY MARKETING

17. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ADVOCACY MARKETING

18. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN MARKETING MANAGEMENT

19. A PHILIPPINE DANCE CELEBRATION: Philippine Baranggay Folk Dance Troupe

20. MARKETING COMPANY OF THE YEAR

21. CEREMONIAL TOAST

22. FINALE NUMBER

23. Closing and Credits

The 2004 Agora Awards: Looking back

2004 WAS A SPECIAL YEAR FOR BOTH the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) and its annual marketing award-giving body the Agora Awards. Celebrating the theme "Marketing Renaissance", it was indeed a rebirth for the organization.

Last year saw the PMA celebrating its 50th year, while the Agora celebrated its Silver anniversary, both carrying long and rich traditions that have shaped the marketing industry to the dynamic discipline it is today.

In all its years of awarding marketing excellence, the Agora Awards has acknowledged those who like to think out of the box, going beyond the usual formulas and trends. An Agora Awardee is simply an innovator in more ways than one. Take for example Philip Young, President and COO of Festive Foods International Inc, who was presented an Agora Award for Export Marketing. Young's success was due to the innovative approach on native health products, such as banana chips, nata de coco and other ethnic foods, and making them competitive on a global scale. It comes as no surprise that products like Virgin coconut oil is quite popular in today's market.

Another example is Anastacio Martirez, head of personal communications and mobile services division at Smart Communications Inc, who bagged the Agora Award for Marketing Management. While the SMS craze in the Philippines was already well established, Martirez took the marketing of cell phones to a whole new level. Maximizing cutting-edge mobile technology and bringing it down to the common man. Martirez took the values that Filipinos hold dear and formed a mobile counterpart. The idea of sharing prepaid credits (i.e. the Pasa Load) was one example of these, taking its cue from the fact that Filipinos just love to share.

Other Agora Awardees who have capitalized on the latest trends are those few people who are able to see the potential in small businesses. Roberto Gandionco, president and CEO of Julie's Franchise Corp, brought the bakeries back to the neighborhoods. Despite having a predominant malling culture, it seems Filipinos' inherent sense of community made Gandionco's business model, which developed more small-scale neighborhood entrepreneurs that provide quality and affordable bread, the clincher for his winning the Agora Award for Entrepreneurship (Large Scale).

Henry Lim Bon Liong of SL Agritech, in a similar light, had his claim to fame with hybrid rice seeds. Investing heavily on research and development, Lim brought his business to the Filipino farmer with considerable success not only to his business, but to the agricultural industry as well. Lim's endeavors helped put the agriculture sector a step further to modernization. Thus making him worthy of an Agora Award for Entrepreneurship (Medium Scale)

For the first time in Agora's history, the Agora Award for Marketing Company of the Year had two recipients, namely Megaworld Corp and Mercury Drug Corp.

Megaworld used its many years of experience in development projects and grabbed a chance to cash in on the booming call center business when it developed Eastwood City, a live-work-play complex found in Libis, Quezon City. The result had Megaworld as the only local developer with a global sales network of more than 300 brokers in 20 countries.

Mercury, on the other hand, focused on boosting its service to its existing customers. The biggest accomplishment for the company is upgrading and expanding its service to make accessibility of medicines easier and more affordable, Mercury also provided better customer value with the Suki card, thus strengthening its hold on the market.

2004 saw SM Foundation Inc taking home the Agora Award for Advocacy Marketing. SM Foundation Inc believed in the saying that giving a man fish will feed him for a day, teaching a man to catch fish and he can feed himself. Teaching self-sufficiency is the main aim of the Foundation. Apart from the medical missions and scholarships, the Foundation used the company's mall chain to be the venue for its outreach programs, which link shoppers, government agencies, the media and civic organizations through donation programs for less fortunate families.

Looking back at the list of winners, it would be safe to assume that the Agora Awards is a preamble to the latest paradigm of the marketing world. Whether the trend is new, revitalized or repackaged, one cannot overlook that such ideas, risky as they may be, are the ones that separate Agora Awardees from the rest of the pack.

As the 2005 Agora Awards draws near, it is not only a question of who will win, but also a question of what is making waves in the marketing industry. If the result of last year's Awards Night was a formidable indication, the 26th Agora Awards is sure to be closely watched.

Special PROJECT

The Agora Awards - Philippines

THE AGORA AWARDS IS THE BEACON OF FILIPINO MARKETING excellence that spotlights admirable qualities of versatility, innovativeness and ingenuity. Through the Agora, the Filipino is hailed as a world-class marketer endowed with a proven flair of out-of-the-box thinking and trailblazing achievements. Because of the Agora, marketing excellence shines through with a distinctively Filipino touch.

As symbolized by the butterfly undergoing its metamorphosis, emerging victoriously from its cocoon, the Agora Awards represent all that is best and brightest about our profession—and about our beloved country.

The butterfly's wings in the Agora Award's logo are the national colors of the Philippines. And just as the butterfly soars triumphantly upwards to achieve excellence, we believe that the Philippines itself will soon undergo a positive transformation. The illustrious winners of the coveted Agora Awards bestowed on this special evening will no doubt play key roles in bringing about a brilliant future for Filipino business and consumers in the years to come.

The Philippine Marketing Association, the Agora Awards and the Marketing Profession

The Agora Awards represent the pinnacle of marketing achievement. The distinguished awardees we will meet this evening are exemplary professionals who have pursued and achieved excellence in marketing. The Association and its members are honored to bestow the coveted Agora Awards upon these deserving role models.

The PMA and the birth of professional marketing in the Philippines

The years before the inception of the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) might well be referred to as the "dark ages" of marketing as a profession in this country. When people thought of marketing, they thought of selling or distribution products. Perhaps they conjured up images of fast-talking salesmen making misleading sales pitches for poor quality products. Marketing practitioners were not able to step forward and proudly present themselves as professionals in a field serving the Filipino people.

But that all changed in 1954 when 15 brave pioneers pooled their efforts and private funds to create the PMA. The new non-stock, non-profit organization had as its explicit long-term goal to promote marketing as a noble profession and to provide high-level guidance to the government for issues related to marketing.

From the beginning, the PMA was committed to the belief that economic and social progress is intricately linked to the free enterprise system. These beliefs are embodied in the PMA credo: "our country's economic progress can be best achieved in a climate of free enterprise" and "business and industry can be best contributed to economic progress" and social well-being through enlightened self-interest. The PMA represented something totally new in the country: an organization firmly grounded in integrity and honesty and committed to marketing as a professional enterprise.

The PMA also believed that marketing should be recognized and appreciated as both an art and science and that it was in truth a profession in the finest sense of the word. Members were expected to contribute to the profession and to their communities , and to show consumers that they were not motivated solely by the profit motive. The Association has always strived to do all that it can to improve the quality of life for the Filipino people.

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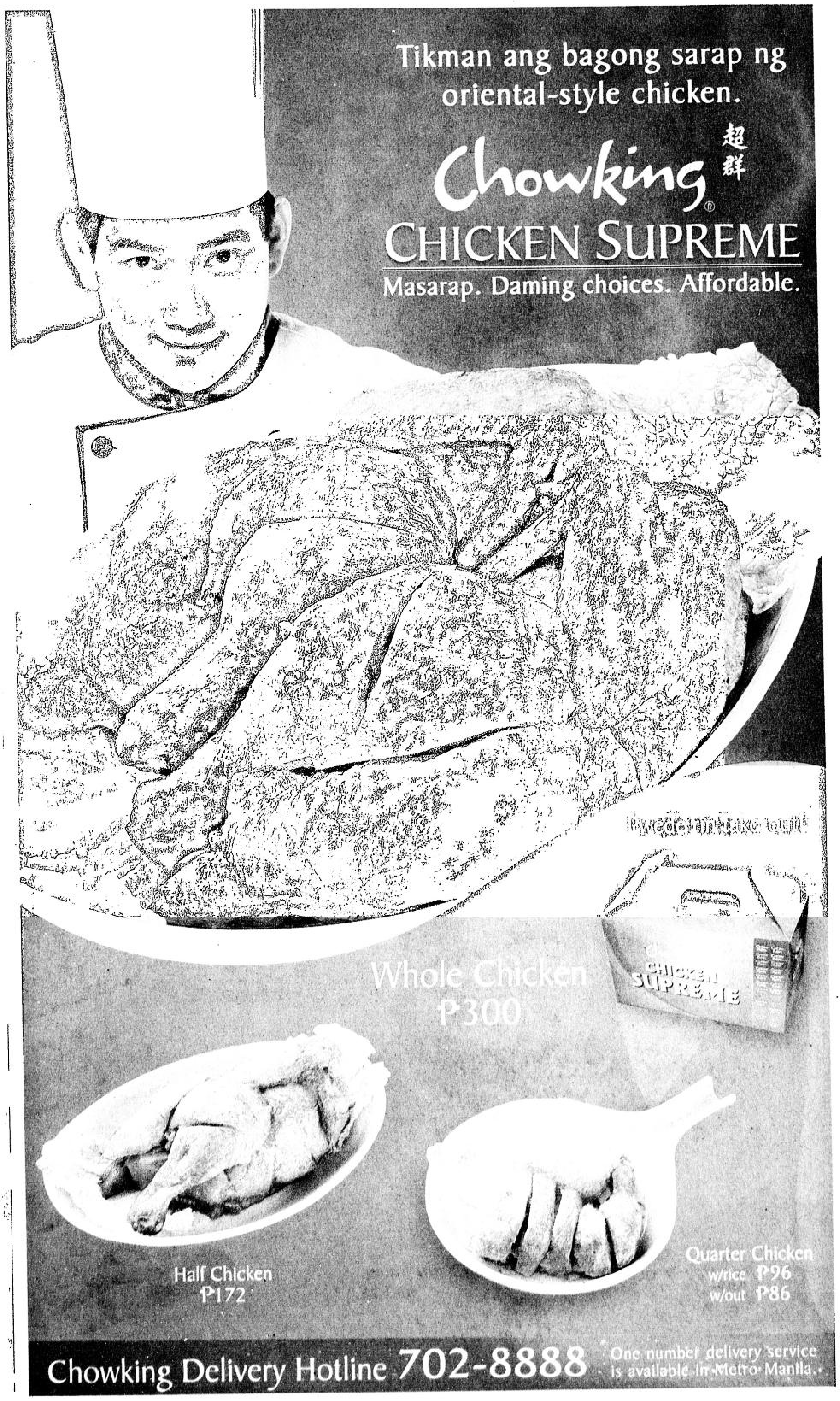
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Esguerra world-class works in 26th Agora Awards Exhibit

THE 26TH AGORA AWARDS OF THE PHILIPPINE Marketing Association is once again set to honor the country's top Filipino marketing achievers on Nov. 10 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Aptly themed "World Class Filipino in Philippine Marketing", this year's celebration will not only pay tribute to Filipino marketing excellence but to world-class Filipino achievers acclaimed with international recognition.

Featured in this forthcoming award's night are the award-winning photography works of New York-based Filipino photographer Carlo L. Esguerra in an opening exhibit.

Esguerra has received around 24 national and international awards, and his works have been selected in numerous juried exhibitions in the United States, Canada, China and Austria. He has a growing group of loyal corporate and individual collectors in the United States, Germany, Mexico and the United Kingdom. His works have been published in several photography and trade magazines in the States, Canada and in Europe, including Forum Magazine, the official publication of Hasselblad camera that features masters of photography. Hasselblad also used one of his images in its 2005 product catalog. For the past two years, his works have made the Best of Photography Annual by Serbin Communications.

This year, he garnered another six awards for his works, including two gold medals in the special themes photography competition sponsored by the Trierenberg Austrian Circuit in Linz, Austria, the biggest salon style competition in the world today.

He studied Business and Economics at the University of the Philippines and obtained his MBA from The George Washington University in Washington, DC.

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